



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving lives, protecting people, reducing health costs

Emergency Preparedness and Response



([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/index.asp](https://web.archive.org/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/index.asp)).

This is an official CDC HEALTH UPDATE

Distributed via Health Alert Network

Wednesday, July 24, 2002, 16:03 EDT (4:03 PM EDT)

CDCHAN-00088-2002-07-24-UPD-N

Public Health Response to Patient Safety Issues

The Chicago Tribune is publishing a series of articles on healthcare-associated infections. These articles draw much attention to a problem that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners in public health and healthcare have been addressing vigorously. CDC believes that preventing healthcare-associated infections is a critical component of the Department of Health and Human Services - patient safety improvement initiative. Our goal is to eliminate threats to patient safety and ensure the highest quality healthcare for all Americans.

Since you may receive questions, we are sending you the steps that the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Infectious Diseases, has been taking to monitor and prevent healthcare-associated infections.

The mission of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) is to protect patients and healthcare personnel and to promote quality of healthcare. In order to accomplish its mission, DHQP is developing a new internet-based knowledge system called the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Two main aspects of the network are reporting of adverse events, including healthcare-associated infections, and disseminating information on preventing such events. Disseminating information on prevention strategies and data on reported adverse events is a critical part of the network. This network is an expansion and enhancement of current surveillance and monitoring capabilities (e.g., National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System - NNIS). The network will be compatible with the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). When NHSN is fully implemented, any healthcare facility will be eligible to participate. The implementation of the NHSN is part of a larger federal response to patient safety, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), CDC, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In addition to NHSN, DHQP is addressing healthcare safety through its seven challenges, priorities it has identified to reduce healthcare-associated infections and other adverse events (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/challenges.htm> (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110819223930/http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/challenges.htm>)). In order to accomplish these goals, DHQP has been involved in several prevention projects through collaborations with state and federal partners and universities. Some collaborations include the Prevention Epicenter Program, the Chicago Antimicrobial Resistance Project, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, and the Iowa Department of Public Health Patient Safety Program. All the projects focus on prevention of healthcare-associated infections and promotion of patient safety.

DHQP has also produced educational materials (e.g., video conferences, slide sets, etc) for facilities to use to educate providers about prevention strategies and has launched a campaign to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in healthcare settings (<http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/healthcare> (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110819223930/http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/healthcare>)).

We invite your agencies to engage in the effort to eliminate threats to patient safety and promote healthcare safety.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HAN Message Types

- **Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention. Example: HAN00001 ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00001.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00001.asp)).
- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action. Example: HAN00316 ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00316.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00316.asp)).
- **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action. Example: HAN00309 ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00309.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00309.asp)).
- **Info Service:** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature. Example: HAN00319 ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00319.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00319.asp)).

This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officers, Public Information Officers, Epidemiologists and HAN Coordinators as well as Clinician organizations

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, please contact your State-based Health Alert Network program at your State or local health department.

Additional Resources

- [HAN Archive By Year](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/dir.asp) ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/dir.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/dir.asp)).
- [HAN Types](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hantable.asp) ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hantable.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hantable.asp)).
- [Sign Up for HAN E-mail Updates](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/updates.asp) ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/updates.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/updates.asp)).
- [HAN Jurisdictions](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hanjuris.asp) ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hanjuris.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/hanjuris.asp)).
- [HAN Coordinator Presentations](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/present.asp) ([/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/present.asp](http://web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/present.asp)).
- Page last reviewed: April 29, 2011 5:00 PM ET
- Page last updated: April 29, 2011 5:00 PM ET
- Content source: CDC Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB), Division of Emergency Operations (DEO), [Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response \(OPHPR\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/cdcpreparedness/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110819223930/http://emergency.cdc.gov/cdcpreparedness/>).

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