

10-03

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Healthcare Safety Network: Process for Sharing Healthcare–Associated Infection Data with Local Health Departments

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) requests that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) modify the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)¹ statement of purpose and confidentiality provisions to establish a system that allows any local health department (LHD) to access, if desired, healthcare-associated infection (HAI) information collected within its jurisdiction or that relates to healthcare facilities in its jurisdiction and reported via the NHSN.

Justification

NACCHO recognizes the CDC's leadership in establishing NHSN for data collection and reporting of HAIs. The use of a single surveillance system and its technical infrastructure by states that have enacted HAI reporting mandates fosters national standardization of HAI case criteria and data requirements. Due to current federal confidentiality provisions, the CDC is not permitted to share hospital-specific infection data or the names of the participating facilities, with state, local, or territorial public health authorities. Although hospitals can voluntarily share their HAI data with a LHD via a software solution, these processes are labor intensive and must be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure complete reporting. Additionally, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' Infectious Disease Committee supports the sharing of HAI data with LHDs and has stated this in its Healthcare-Associated Infection Reporting position statement.²

Record of Action

*Approved by NACCHO Board of Directors
November 2010*

References

¹ National Healthcare Safety Network. (2009, October 14). Retrieved October 11, 2010, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about.html>.

² Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Healthcare-Associated Infection Reporting Position Statement 10-SI-05. Retrieved October 11, 2010, from <http://www.cste.org/dnn/annualconference/positionstatements/2010positionstatements/tabid/422/default.aspx>

