Texas Department of State Health Services Healthcare Safety Group is pleased to hold the 2018 Healthcare Safety Conference on **July 23-24, 2018** in Austin. **Find more information, instructions and links for Registration, Travel Reimbursement and Poster Abstract Submission at** [http://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/health Conferences.xls](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/health Conferences.xls)

### ARLN Admission Screening

CDC recommends patients with hospitalization outside the U.S. in the past 6 months should be placed on contact precautions.

- Patients with hospitalization outside the U.S. in past 6 months
  - Screen patient
  - Place in Contact Precautions pending screening result
- ARLN now can process these admission colonization swabs

**How to operationalize?**

- Protocol for direct admissions
- Travel question (time interval)

Contact DSHS at [MDROTexas@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:MDROTexas@dshs.texas.gov) if your hospital is interested in free screening of these patients to determine if they need to remain on contact precautions.
Healthcare Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

The Healthcare Safety Advisory Committee meeting was held Thursday, April 5, 2018 in Austin, TX. To view the committee meeting, visit: https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/04052018-535

Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC) List for 2018

CMS has posted a revised list of HAC codes for 2018. You can download it at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HospitalAcqCond/icd10_hacs.html More information can be found in the newest PAE FAQs.

Preventing SSIs

AHRQ’s new Toolkit To Promote Safe Surgery helps hospitals reduce surgical site infections (SSIs). Based on the experiences of frontline providers in approximately 200 hospitals that participated in a national implementation project and successfully reduced SSIs, the toolkit was adapted from AHRQ’s Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) to the surgical setting. Toolkit strategies can help prevent infections that may occur with surgical procedures including colorectal surgery and hysterectomies, two areas tracked by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for hospital-acquired conditions. Visit the toolkit’s website to download and learn more. AHRQ’s Toolkit to Improve Safety in Ambulatory Surgery Centers can be found at https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/hais/tools/ambulatory-surgery/index.html https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/education/curriculum-tools/cusptoolkit/index.html

Revised PAE Documents

The following PAE documents have been revised/updated:
The PAE Reporting FAQs can be accessed the PAE FAQs page. The PAE Reporting Program Brochure posted on the PAE Resources page. The Texas Reportable Preventable Adverse Events Definitions and Guidance posted on the PAE Resources page.

Note: the addition to the Texas Note for Foreign Object Retained, page 9.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces a deadline extension for completing the online National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Agreement to Participate and Consent form, referred to as the Consent in this announcement. The new deadline for completing the Consent, **June 15, 2018**, applies to **ALL** facilities currently enrolled in NHSN regardless of their CMS participation. The deadline for Long-term Care Facilities remains June 15, 2018.

The Consent is accessible to only the NHSN Facility Administrator or Primary Contact user. The new deadline provides additional time for each facility’s NHSN Facility Administrator or Primary Contact to complete the online Consent and avoid any interruptions in access to the NHSN application, including access for purposes of submitting data to meet local, state, or federal reporting requirements. Please be informed that if the Consent is not completed by the new deadline, access to NHSN will be temporarily suspended. Additionally, users will receive an error message when they attempt to log into NHSN redirecting them to the Facility Administrator or Primary Contact.

CMS quality reporting deadlines for NHSN measure reporting are not affected by this extension.

NHSN is pleased to assist with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Consent process. For more information on how to complete the NHSN Agreement to Participate and Consent process, please visit, [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about-nhsn/faq-agreement-to-participate.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about-nhsn/faq-agreement-to-participate.html). You may also direct questions to NHSN@cdc.gov.

**PAE Resources**

Find The Joint Commission’s Quick Safety information on Preventing Newborn Falls and Drops at [https://www.jointcommission.org/quick_safety.aspx](https://www.jointcommission.org/quick_safety.aspx)


IDSA and SHEA have released a new guideline on *Clostridium difficile*, including recommendations for diagnosis, prevention, testing, and more. The pocket guide is available in print and digital formats.

**NHSN March 2018 Newsletter**


Inside this Issue – Follow up from the 2018 NHSN Training, Device Day Count for Determination of Device-associated Infections in 2018, Procedure Duration and Your Surgical Site Infection SIR, HPRO and KPRO Guidance, and more.

**CDC Strategy Stops Spread of New Antibiotic-Resistant Germs**

CDC’s most recent Vital Signs report highlights the importance of rapid identification of new or rare resistance. This is the critical first step in CDC’s Containment Strategy to stop the spread of antibiotic resistance (AR). Once AR spreads, it is harder to control. Finding and responding to unusual resistance early, before it becomes common, can help stop its spread and protect people. For more information visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/containing-unusual-resistance/](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/containing-unusual-resistance/)

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CDC Launches NEW Antibiotic Use Training Course**

CDC’s Office of Antibiotic Stewardship recently launched the first section of a web-based training course on Antibiotic Stewardship. Three additional sections will be released throughout 2018. To register and take the course online, create an account at [http://bit.ly/2BsVc0z](http://bit.ly/2BsVc0z)

Course objectives include:
- optimizing antibiotic prescribing and use to protect patients and combat the threat of antibiotic resistance,
- informing healthcare professionals about proper antibiotic use, and encouraging open discussion among doctors and patients.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified health education specialists, nurses, pharmacists, and public health practitioners with a master’s degree in public health are eligible to receive up to eight hours of free CE for the entire course.
Q: Should a colon/perforation associated with a colonoscopy/biopsy be reported under the PAE-Patient Death or Severe Harm Associated with the Use or Function of a Device in Patient Care, in Which the Device is Used or Functions Other than Intended?

A: First, to be reportable, patient death or severe harm would be present. Severe harm would be met if the patient had to be transferred to higher level of care, have another procedure, receive blood transfusions, etc. Second, the device (endoscope/biopsy forceps or other) would have to be used or functioned other than intended. You would not be required to report this event if there is no evidence or assumption by the practitioner that the equipment malfunctioned or that the practitioner used the equipment incorrectly.

Note: For ASCs, patient transfers to a hospital are to be reported to the Regulatory Division per TAC Title 25 Part 1 Chapter 135.26. These reports should be faxed to 512-834-4514.

Are you having issues receiving emails from TxHSN? Has your facility changed ownership or has the email domain changed? Well then contact the TxHSN help desk! Don’t miss another deadline alert again!

For HAI/PAE questions:
HaiTexas@dshs.texas.gov
PaeTexas@dshs.texas.gov