

How to Join HQI's NHSN Group via the CDC SAMS Portal for Ongoing Comparisons of HAI Performance to Peers and Support for Quality Improvement Goals

This document provides instructions for hospitals participating in the Hospital Quality Improvement Platform (HQIP) to authorize access to their Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) data through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Granting access supports infection prevention efforts and enables performance comparisons across California hospitals in HQIP.

Background

Per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [requirements](#) and [California statute](#), your hospital *already* reports cases of healthcare-associated infections monthly to [NHSN](#) through CDC's Secure Access Management Services ([SAMS](#)) Portal. These data are used by CMS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [HAI Program](#), and others for surveillance and prevention.

By joining the **NHSN group for HQIP**, hospitals authorize access to a predefined set of data fields using NHSN's **"Confer Rights"** function. This enables HQIP to display your hospital's performance on key infection metrics—updated monthly—alongside comparable hospitals in the state. No additional data entry or manual uploads are required. The following infection measures will be accessible:

- [CLABSI](#) – Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections
- [CAUTI](#) – Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections
- [CDI](#) – *Clostridium Difficile* Infection Laboratory-Identified Events
- [MRSA](#) – Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Bacteremia Laboratory-Identified Events
- [SSI](#) – Surgical Site Infections (up to 39 procedures), including Abdominal Hysterectomy (HYST) and Inpatient Colon Procedures (COLO)
- [VAE](#) – Ventilator-Associated Events
- [IVAC Plus](#) – Infection-Related Ventilator-Associated Complications And Pneumonia

Quick Instructions

The process takes about 5–10 minutes for your hospital's [NHSN Facility Administrator](#):

- 1. Log into the CDC SAMS Portal**

Access your NHSN account via the [CDC's Secure Access Management Services \(SAMS\) Portal](#).

- 2. Navigate to Group Functionality**

- In NHSN, go to the **"Group"** tab.

- Select **“Join a Group”** and enter the following information:
 - Group Name: **The Hospital Quality Institute (HQI)**
 - Group NHSN ID: **56370**
 - Group Joining Password: **MRSAs4theweak!-CLABSI_HAI**
- 3. **Review and Accept the Confer Rights Template**
Carefully review the Confer Rights Template, which specifies the data elements HQI will access.
- 4. **Click “Join Group”**
Once the template is reviewed and accepted, click **“Join Group”** to complete the process.

Before You Start

Identify your hospital's [NHSN Facility Administrator](#), usually the infection preventionist. This person can join our NHSN group in [CDC's Secure Access Management Services \(SAMS\) Portal](#). If unsure, ask your infection control department who handles NHSN reporting. If needed, contact NHSN Support at nhsn@cdc.gov.

Once you've confirmed who your hospital's NHSN Facility Administrator is, ask them to follow the detailed instructions on the next pages and complete the following:

- **Task A: Join the HQI NHSN Group**
This step enables data access via NHSN's "Group" functionality and takes less than 10 minutes.
- **Task B: Approve the “Confer Rights – Patient Safety” Template**
This template outlines the specific data fields HQI will be allowed to access. Reviewing and accepting it finalizes the permission process.

Task A: Joining the HQI NHSN Group

1. Log into CDC [SAMS Partner Portal](#) using the username and password supplied by NHSN.
2. On the **Welcome to the NHSN Landing Page**, select **Patient Safety** in the **Select Component** dropdown box and select your hospital in the **Select Facility/Group** dropdown box.
Then click the Submit button.

Welcome to the NHSN Landing Page

Select a component and facility,
then click Submit to go to the Home Page.

User: **RRODRIGUEZ (ID 147981)**
Select component:
Select facility/group from dropdown list:

- In the left-hand column, click **Group**, and then **Join**. This will take you to the **Memberships** screen. On the **Memberships** screen enter the following:

- Group NHSN ID: **56370**
- Group Joining Password: **MRSAis4theweak!-CLABSI_HAI**

Then click the Join Group button.

- A pop-up **Warning** message will appear telling you that you are about to join a group. Click the **Ok** button and you will be taken to the **Confer Rights – Patient Safety** screen.

Task B: Approve the “Confer Rights – Patient Safety” Template

On the **Confer Rights – Patient Safety** screen you can review the specific HAI data elements, timeframes, and locations/settings that HQI is requesting access to as a member of our NHSN Group.

- In the section titled **General**, HQI is requesting access as a member of our NHSN group:

- Patient: Without Any Identifiers**
- Monthly Reporting Plan**
- Data Analysis**
- Facility Information**

2. In the **Surveys** section, HQI is requesting access to **Hospital Survey Data from 2015 to present:**

Surveys		
Year	Year	Survey Type
2015	To	Hospital Survey Data

3. In the **Infections and Other Events (Not specific to MDRO/CDI)** section, HQI is requesting 2015 to *present* data for the four types of HAIs shown below in the indicated location/setting:

Time Frame	Location/Setting	Infection/Event
Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>	Location Type: (ALL) Location: (ALL)	BSI - Bloodstream Infection (CLA)
Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>	Procedures: (ALL) Setting: IN (inpatient)	SSI - Surgical Site Infection
Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>	Location Type: (ALL) Location: (ALL)	UTI - Urinary Tract Infection (Cath)
Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>	Location Type: (ALL) Location: (ALL)	VAE - Ventilator-Associated Event

Infections and other Events (Not specific to MDRO/CDI)					
Includes Applicable Denominators and "No Events" Indicators					
Plan	Month	Year	Month	Year	Event
In	January	2015	To		BSI - Bloodstream Infection (CLA)
Location type: (ALL)					Other Location Requirements:
In	January	2015	To		SSI - Surgical Site Infection
Procedures: (ALL)					Setting: ☒ IN ☐ OUT
In	January	2015	To		UTI - Urinary Tract Infection (Cath)
Location type: (ALL)					Other Location Requirements:
In	January	2015	To		VAE - Ventilator-Associated Event
Location type: (ALL)					Other Location Requirements:

Add Row Clear All Rows

NOTE: You can ignore any error message that appears under *Your Locations* indicating that **"No locations meet criteria,"** which just means your facility has no mapped locations for the location requested.

Your Locations
No locations meet criteria

4. In the **Antimicrobial Use and Resistance** section, there are no selections made because HQI is not requesting access to any of these data at this time.

Antimicrobial Use and Resistance						
Plan	Month	Year	Month	Year	Location Type	Location
			To			
☐ Antimicrobial Use ☐ Antimicrobial Resistance						

5. In the **MDRO/CDI Events, Process and Outcome Measures** section, HQI is requesting 2015 to present data for the two types of infections shown below for all facility-wide inpatient locations:

Infection	Location Type	Location	Event Type	Time Frame
CDIF - <i>C. difficile</i>	FACWIDE	FacWIDEIn	LabID (laboratory-identified)	Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>
MRSA - MRSA	FACWIDE	FacWIDEIn	LabIDbId (blood events only)	Jan 2015 to <i>present</i>

MDRO/CDI Events, Process and Outcome Measures
Includes Applicable Denominators and "No Events" Indicators

Plan: In | Month: January | Year: 2015 | To: | Location Type: FACWIDE | Location: FacWIDEIn | Other Location Requirements: |

Specific Organism Type:

- ☐ ACINE - MDR-Acinetobacter
- ☒ CDIF - C. difficile
- ☐ CEPHRKLEB - CephR-Klebsiella
- ☐ CRE - CRE (CRE-Ecoli, CRE-Enterobacter, CRE-Klebsiella)
- ☐ MRSA - MRSA
- ☐ MSSA - MSSA
- ☐ VRE - VRE

Event Type: LABID - Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event

Process Measures:

- ☐ Hand Hygiene
- ☐ Gown and Gloves

Organism	ASTAdm	AST D/T	AST Incidence	AST Prevalence
☐ MRSA	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ VRE	☐	☐	☐	☐

Plan: In | Month: January | Year: 2015 | To: | Location Type: FACWIDE | Location: FacWIDEIn | Other Location Requirements: |

Specific Organism Type:

- ☐ ACINE - MDR-Acinetobacter
- ☐ CDIF - C. difficile
- ☐ CEPHRKLEB - CephR-Klebsiella
- ☐ CRE - CRE (CRE-Ecoli, CRE-Enterobacter, CRE-Klebsiella)
- ☒ MRSA - MRSA
- ☐ MSSA - MSSA
- ☐ VRE - VRE

Event Type: LABID - Laboratory-identified MDRO Event - Blood Specimen Only

Process Measures:

- ☐ Hand Hygiene
- ☐ Gown and Gloves

Organism	ASTAdm	AST D/T	AST Incidence	AST Prevalence
☐ MRSA	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ VRE	☐	☐	☐	☐

NOTE: Location Type FACWIDE and Location FacWIDEIn, all adult/pediatric emergency departments and 24-hour observation areas are automatically included in the template for both CDIF and MRSA.

Auto added rights for ED/OBS

Plan: In | Month: January | Year: 2015 | To: | Location Type: (ALL) | Location: Emergency Department | Other Location Requirements: |

Specific Organism Type:

- ☐ ACINE - MDR-Acinetobacter
- ☒ CDIF - C. difficile
- ☐ CEPHRKLEB - CephR-Klebsiella
- ☐ CRE - CRE (CRE-Ecoli, CRE-Enterobacter, CRE-Klebsiella)
- ☐ MRSA - MRSA
- ☐ MSSA - MSSA
- ☐ VRE - VRE

Event Type: LABID - Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event

Process Measures:

- ☐ Hand Hygiene
- ☐ Gown and Gloves

Organism	ASTAdm	AST D/T	AST Incidence	AST Prevalence
☐ MRSA	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ VRE	☐	☐	☐	☐

Plan: In | Month: January | Year: 2015 | To: | Location Type: (ALL) | Location: Pediatric Emergency Department | Other Location Requirements: |

Specific Organism Type:

- ☐ ACINE - MDR-Acinetobacter
- ☒ CDIF - C. difficile
- ☐ CEPHRKLEB - CephR-Klebsiella
- ☐ CRE - CRE (CRE-Ecoli, CRE-Enterobacter, CRE-Klebsiella)
- ☐ MRSA - MRSA
- ☐ MSSA - MSSA
- ☐ VRE - VRE

Event Type: LABID - Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event

Process Measures:

- ☐ Hand Hygiene
- ☐ Gown and Gloves

Organism	ASTAdm	AST D/T	AST Incidence	AST Prevalence
☐ MRSA	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ VRE	☐	☐	☐	☐

Plan: In | Month: January | Year: 2015 | To: | Location Type: (ALL) | Location: 24-Hour Observation Area | Other Location Requirements: |

Specific Organism Type:

- ☐ ACINE - MDR-Acinetobacter
- ☒ CDIF - C. difficile
- ☐ CEPHRKLEB - CephR-Klebsiella
- ☐ CRE - CRE (CRE-Ecoli, CRE-Enterobacter, CRE-Klebsiella)
- ☐ MRSA - MRSA
- ☐ MSSA - MSSA
- ☐ VRE - VRE

Event Type: LABID - Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event

Process Measures:

- ☐ Hand Hygiene
- ☐ Gown and Gloves

Organism	ASTAdm	AST D/T	AST Incidence	AST Prevalence
☐ MRSA	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ VRE	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Finally, click the **Accept** button at the bottom of the page. **You will receive a message indicating that you have successfully conferred data rights with the HQI NHSN Group.** The group name in your message will be **HQI (56370)**.



If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the HQI Analytics Team at:
HQIAnalytics@HQInstitute.org