

California Alignment for Hospital Quality (Cal HQ)

Bold Goal Methodology Primer

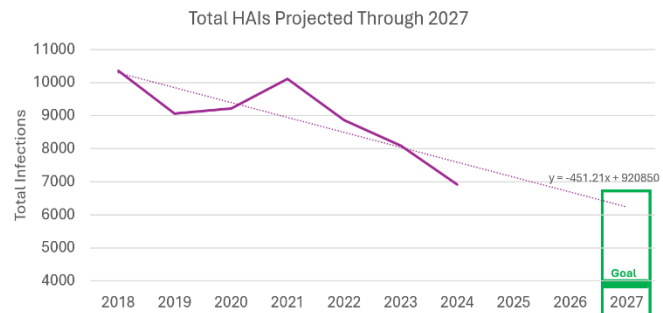
Cal HQ's initial bold goal is to take a combined view of the following healthcare associated infections (HAIs): Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), *Clostridioides difficile* infections (CDI) and Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Two data sources are utilized:

1. CMS Publicly Available HAI data to determine the statewide goal
 - a. Collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
 - b. Data for all California hospitals; Population = All-payer; 18-month Data Lag
2. Hospital Quality Institute (HQI)'s statewide benchmarking and analytics platform, Hospital Quality Improvement Platform (HQIP) for access to more real-time data to support Cal HQ's quality improvement efforts
 - a. Data for hospitals that confer rights to HQI's NHSN group
 - b. Near real-time data, updated monthly

Cal HQ's Initial Bold Goal: *Reduce additional 2,000 Healthcare associated infections (HAI)s, beyond projected performance, by the December 31, 2027*

1. **What is the current trend based on historical data?**

Using CMS public HAI data, Cal HQ plotted California's total HAIs from 2018 through 2024 and calculated a linear trend line based on historical data.



2. **What would be the total HAIs by the end of 2027?**

The state already has great infection prevention efforts in progress. The trend line estimates that if the historical rate of improvement continued, California would reach approximately 6,200 total HAIs by the end of 2027.

3. **How can the state accelerate this goal?**

Cal HQ's goal is more ambitious than simply continuing the existing trajectory. Each infection represents a family member or loved one impacted. In our journey towards zero infections, Cal HQ's goal is to incrementally reduce HAIs, starting with a target of 4,000 or less by the end of 2027, which is lower than the projected 6,200 under the existing trend. To understand the pace of improvement, Cal HQ also calculated the relative change in total HAIs across two periods using 2024 as the baseline year:

- Pre-baseline (i.e. 2021 - 2024): 31% relative reduction in total HAIs
- Cal HQ Target Post-baseline (i.e. 2024 - 2027): 42% relative reduction in total HAIs

4. **Where do the 2,000 additional infections come from?**

The historical trend projects approximately 6,200 HAIs by the end of 2027 if no additional intervention occurs. Cal HQ's goal is to accelerate and reduce this trajectory by an additional 2,200 infections to a total of 4,000 HAIs or less for all CA hospitals by the end of 2027.

5. **Why does the initiative target total infection counts rather than a combined SIR?**

Cal HQ targets total HAIs as a single, validated SIR combining all four HAIs is currently unavailable. Counting actual infections also highlights the direct human impact rather than performance in relation to an expected value. Moreover, reducing raw infection counts naturally lowers individual facility SIRs over time. Hospital can choose which of the four individual HAIs to target for internal quality improvement. Cal Healthcare Compare has created a combined SIR measure to help inform goal setting and benchmarking.

How can my hospital contribute to Cal HQ's statewide goal?

To support California's goal of reducing more HAIs faster, Cal HQ Identified hospital-specific reduction targets based on facility size as measured by staffed beds. Rather than assigning identical reduction targets to all hospitals, Cal HQ evaluated the distribution of HAIs across California hospitals and allocated reduction goals proportionate to each hospital size category's contribution to the statewide HAI burden (see table below).

Recommended Cal HQ Infection Prevention Targets by Hospital Size

Hospital Bed Size* N = 300	Total HAIs 2024 (Baseline)	42% Reduction from Baseline in Total HAIs by Dec. 31, 2027	Recommended 2027 Infection Reduction Targets per hospital
< 50 (n=73)	187	108 (79 less HAIs)	1-2
50-99 (n=53)	324	188 (136 less HAIs)	2-3
100-199 (n=83)	1,384	803 (581 less HAIs)	7
200-299 (n=47)	1,303	756 (547 less HAIs)	11-12
300+ (n=44)	2,815	1,633 (1,182 less HAIs)	26-27

Note: Missing hospital size data for 26 hospitals

The table above provides recommended targets to help achieve Cal HQ's statewide goal of preventing 2,000 additional HAIs. We encourage hospitals to set bold, customized goals using their personalized metrics on the [Cal HQ HQIP Dashboard](#) or via internal monitoring tools. Cal HQ aims to scale successful local practices, accelerate reduction efforts across California, and ensure that every infection prevented represents another loved one protected.