STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

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The Honorable Lucy Weber, Chairperson
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Weber:

This letter is to inform you that the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services will release healthcare-associated infections (HAI) reports for hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC) in accordance with RSA 151:34 by January 2021. As in previous years, this report will be available to the public on our website (http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/hai/publications.htm). Additionally, the Division will issue a press release highlighting key findings.

Preliminary data shows that New Hampshire had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, however these data were not statistically significant. A total of 169 HAI were reported by hospitals in 2019, compared to 196 in 2018. The overall observed number of HAIs in New Hampshire hospitals was 13% fewer than predicted based on national data; there were 19% fewer central line-associated bloodstream infections, 15% fewer catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and 12% fewer surgical site infections. Statewide adherence to four infection prevention practices during central line insertions was 97% (a significant decrease from 2018) and the overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 96%, which exceeds the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90%.

Preliminary data for ambulatory surgical centers (ACS) indicates lower number of HAIs to what would typically be predicted nationally. Zero surgical site infections were reported by ASCs for 2019, compared to one for 2018. This was the first year ASC reported zero surgical site infections. Statewide ASC adherence to intravenous antibiotic prophylaxis timing guidelines to prevent surgical site infection was 97% (fewer than the adherence rate seen in prior years above 98%) and the overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 80% (compared with 83% during the 2018-19 influenza season).

Per RSA 151:34, IV, the Department is required to report on HAI program costs to the Health and Human Services Committee and the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee. Program costs include the amount of federal funding received for the program, and the amount of fees paid by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to support the program. The fees for State Fiscal Year 2020 increased due to a decrease of federal funding. The approved HAI Program operating budget for SFY 2020 was $381,243; of which $234,381 was funded through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) federal grant and $146,924[1] assessed to healthcare facilities in June 2020.

[1] In previous years, healthcare facilities were assessed fees which ranged from a total of $22,000-$150,000.

The Department continues to work with hospitals and ASCs to collect and report these important HAI data and to respond timely and effectively to infectious disease threats to assure the health of the citizens of New Hampshire. Thank you for your commitment to this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Katrina Hansen, Chief of Infectious Disease Surveillance Section at (603) 271-8325, katrina.e.hansen@dhhs.nh.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa Morris, MSSW
Director, Division of Public Health Services
NH Department of Health and Human Services