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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Annual Hospital and Ambulatory Surgery Center Healthcare-Associated Infections Reports Released**

**Concord, NH** – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) has released the *2017 Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Hospital Report* and the *2017 Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Report*. DHHS is mandated by law to report data on the occurrence of specific HAIs based on data from the 33 hospitals and 27 ASCs licensed in the State.

The reports also provide data on hospital and ASC compliance with measures that help protect patients from healthcare-associated infections. These data include adherence to infection prevention practices during central line insertions in hospitals, the appropriate use of antimicrobials during surgical procedures in ASC, and influenza vaccination coverage among hospital and ASC healthcare personnel.

“Healthcare-associated infections are a concern across the country, but the report finds hospitals and surgical centers in New Hampshire are committed to measures to protect patients and prevent these infections from occurring,” said DPHS Director Lisa Morris. “The data helps the Department, hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers track progress and identify areas that require special attention, see where improvements can be made, and inform consumers.”

Hospitals report central line-associated bloodstream infections, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and surgical site infections following certain heart, colon, abdominal hysterectomy, and knee surgical procedures. ASCs report surgical site infections following certain breast, hernia, and open reduction of fracture surgical procedures.

### **Hospitals**

Overall, there were fewer observed infections than predicted in New Hampshire hospitals compared with national data. A total of 183 HAI were reported by hospitals in 2017, compared to 202 in 2016. The overall observed number of HAI in hospitals in New Hampshire in 2017 was 1% lower than predicted based on national data; there were also 25% fewer central line-associated bloodstream infections and 6% fewer surgical site infections than predicted. The overall observed number of catheter-associated urinary tract infections in New Hampshire hospitals was 48, which is 37% higher than predicted based on national data.

Statewide hospital adherence to four infection prevention practices during central line insertions

was 98.5%, which was similar to 2016 (98.4%). The overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination coverage in hospitals was 93.3%, which exceeds the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90%.

### **Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC)**

Overall, statewide infection rates in ASCs are similar in comparison with national data. A total of three surgical site infections were reported by ASC for 2017, compared with four in 2016. The overall observed number of surgical site infections in New Hampshire ASCs was similar to the predicted number based on national data. Statewide, ASC adherence to guidelines for timing intravenous antibiotics prior to surgery to prevent surgical site infection was 98.1% (a significant decrease from last year, during which the rate was 99.0%), and the overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 81.5%, which was similar to the prior year, when the vaccination rate was 83.3%.

These reports provide a picture of the occurrence of selected HAI in New Hampshire and can be used by healthcare facilities in the state to identify areas for improvement and prevention as well as healthcare consumers to make informed healthcare decisions. There are a number of important HAI prevention initiatives being carried out by healthcare facilities and DPHS partner organizations across the state and include activities such as hand hygiene campaigns, patient safety checklists, and programs to prevent bloodstream infections, antimicrobial resistance, and *Clostridium difficile* infections. In addition to supporting and engaging in prevention activities with patient safety groups, DPHS provides educational opportunities to healthcare facilities across the state in order to share best practices for infection prevention and ultimately reduce HAI.

The 2017 HAI report and past reports can be accessed at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/hai/publications.htm>. For more information about the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program, please call 603-271-4496 or email [haiprogram@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:haiprogram@dhhs.nh.gov).

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