

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

To: NHSN Facility Administrators at Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Certified Dialysis Centers
 and Hospitals with 50 beds or less

From: Allison Daniels, MSPH
 Patient Safety Program Coordinator

Date: September 9, 2009

Subject: New Education Recommendations for Personnel Responsible for Reporting through the
 National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

In January of 2009, the Colorado Ambulatory Surgical Association (CASCA) passed House Bill 1025. This legislation exempts ambulatory surgical centers, certified dialysis treatment centers and hospitals with 50 beds or less from the requirement that an individual who collects data on hospital-acquired infection rates take a test for the appropriate national certification for infection control and become certified within 6 months after the individual becomes eligible to take the certification test. This requirement was initially outlined in House Bill 06-1045.

The Colorado Health Facilities Acquired Infections Advisory Committee (CHFAIAC) recognizes that this requirement was not feasible for these facilities that may not have a staff member whose sole role is infection prevention. In an effort to promote infection prevention best practices in all Colorado facilities, the CHFAIAC has recommended an annual education requirement for all healthcare staff reporting through NHSN that are not certified in infection control. The Advisory Committee recommendations include the following:

- Complete pre-requisite NHSN training sessions prior to joining the NHSN
- Complete a total of 10 hours of continuing education annually (total hours, not CEU's or education credits)
- Each facility's reporting personnel must focus his/her individual infection prevention education on topics that directly affect the individual's facility
- All paperwork that verifies education requirements must be maintained by the center for future audits

- All types of media may be used to meet educational hour requirements (i.e., Journal CEU programs, webinars, seminars, university or college-based programs, or outside agency sponsored programs)

Should you have any questions regarding this education recommendation, please feel free to contact me at allison.daniels@state.co.us or 303-692-2861.