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Date: February 16, 2017

To: Infection Preventionists in Wisconsin Skilled Nursing Facilities

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, MD   
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases

Re: Mandatory Use of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to Conduct Surveillance for Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)

Beginning September 1, 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH), required all Wisconsin licensed skilled nursing facilities to report isolates of CRE among their residents using the CRE definition and protocol described in the NHSN multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) module at [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/lctf-labid-event-protocol\\_current.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/lctf-labid-event-protocol_current.pdf). To date use of the NHSN has been encouraged but not required; however, DPH will require skilled nursing facilities to use NHSN for CRE reporting beginning June 1, 2017. This means that isolates of CRE with specimen collection dates on or after June 1, 2017, must be reported into NHSN, and denominator data (resident-days and admissions) must be entered into NHSN beginning with June 2017 data. **Please note that denominator data must be entered for each month even if your facility reports no cases of CRE for the month.**

DPH has created several resources to help infection preventionists enroll and set up their facilities' reporting in NHSN. You can access those resources at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/tutorials.htm>. When you have completed the enrollment and set-up processes, you will also need to confer data rights to DPH by following the steps outlined at <https://connect.wisconsin.gov/dhsdphconfer/>. The group ID is 33839 and the password is wijoin. **It is important that you complete this step for DPH to have access to your CRE data and for your CRE reporting requirements to be fulfilled.**

For questions regarding the CRE reporting mandate, please contact Gwen Borlaug at 608-267-7711 or [gwen.borlaug@wi.gov](mailto:gwen.borlaug@wi.gov). For questions and technical support regarding NHSN, you may contact Ashlie Dowdell, HAI Surveillance Coordinator, at 608-266-1122 or [ashlie.dowdell@wi.gov](mailto:ashlie.dowdell@wi.gov).

Thank you for your partnership as we work together toward reducing CRE prevalence in Wisconsin.