



December 4, 2024

News from the CQO's Desk



Apply Now!
WHA Quality and Patient Safety Awards - Apply by December 20

This awards program recognizes hospitals that advance and improve patient outcomes in Wisconsin. All WHA member hospitals are eligible to apply and will have the opportunity to be featured at the WHA Health Care Quality Showcase in the Capitol Rotunda in conjunction with WHA's Advocacy Day in April 2025.

Find additional information on award eligibility, criteria, application, and more at [WHA Quality and Patient Safety Awards](#). **The application deadline is December 20, 2024, by 5pm.** Award winners will be announced in early 2025.



Share your Holiday Wish List With Us!

As our quality team explores learning opportunities and plans educational offerings for 2025, we'd love to know what's on your hospital's holiday wish list. Please take a moment to complete this brief two-question [survey](#).

Thank you! We appreciate your feedback.



National Influenza Vaccination Week Is Observed December 2 - 6

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) serves as an important reminder for everyone ages 6 months and older that it's not too late to protect themselves and their loved ones from the flu this season by getting their annual flu vaccine, if they haven't already. [CDC data](#) shows that flu vaccination coverage was lower last season, especially among certain higher risk groups, including children. When you get a flu vaccine, you reduce your risk of illness, and flu-related hospitalization if you do get sick. This week is meant to remind people that there is still time to benefit from the first and most important action in [preventing flu illness and potentially serious flu complications](#): get a flu vaccine today. Check out [CDC's NIVW toolkit](#) for more shareable resources and content.

Enhancing Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Opioid Overdose Response: WHA Surveys for Member Feedback

WHA is committed to improving access to treatment for substance use disorders and mitigating the risk of opioid overdose. We offer two key programs to support these efforts: the Wisconsin Rural Health and Substance Use Clinical Support (RHeSUS) Program and the ED Opioid Response Protocol (ORP). These programs provide vital resources, including program management, training, education, and technical assistance.

To better understand your needs and experiences in these critical areas, we kindly request that you or a designated colleague/staff member complete the following surveys.

The first is a brief [Naloxone Distribution Survey](#), focused on the distribution of Naloxone in Emergency Departments. Your input will help us assess the current distribution practices and determine areas for improvement. Please take a moment to complete the survey. If you're not the right person to respond, kindly forward it to someone who can, such as the ED CMO or ED Manager.

The second survey is the [Hospital Peer Support Utilization Survey](#). This anonymous survey seeks feedback on staff experiences with and perspectives on peer recovery support services for treating patients with substance use disorders or addiction. It is expected to take 5-7 minutes to complete. The survey is ideal for clinicians who work in Emergency Departments, urgent care centers, primary care settings, and other locations where peer recovery services are provided. We encourage you to share this survey across various disciplines, including Hospital Administration, MD/DO, PA/NP, Pharmacists, Psychologists, RNs, Behavioral Health Providers, Peer Support Providers, and others.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support in disseminating these important surveys. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of substance use disorder treatment and overdose response programs across the state.

Patient Safety Structural Measure

As part of the FY2025 rule, CMS is requiring hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program to implement the Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM). Hospitals will need to comply with the measure beginning January 1, 2025.

The PSSM is an attestation-based measure developed to assess whether the hospital's systems and strategies prioritize and facilitate a culture of safety. The PSSM consists of five domains.

- Domain 1: Leadership Commitment to Eliminating Preventable Harm
- Domain 2: Strategic Planning and Organizational Policy
- Domain 3: Culture of Safety and Learning Health System
- Domain 4: Accountability and Transparency
- Domain 5: Patient and Family Engagement

The [Quick Start Guide: Patient Safety Structural Measure](#) gives an explanation of each of the PSSM domains and elements for attestation. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) webinar [Transforming Safety with the CMS PSSM & National Action Plan](#) provides an overview of PSSM.

Hospitals must evaluate and attest to each of the elements within domains. Each domain is worth one point, for a total of five (5) points. The hospital must meet the required number of elements within a domain to receive a point. CMS will not give partial credit within the domain. The PSSM attestation will be reported via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) platform with specific system reporting details released later by NHSN. Hospitals choosing not to participate in the IQR program or meet elements of the domains may face a significant reduction in their annual Medicare payment update. CMS IQR Measures are available via CMS QualityNet.

If you have additional questions or you are interested in additional educational opportunities regarding the PSSM or Age-Friendly Measures, please reach out to [Stacy Kopp](#), Clinical Quality Improvement Manager.

Improving Patient Safety by Reducing Communication Failures- An Introduction to I-PASS

I-PASS is a standardized handoff tool used in healthcare to ensure clear and consistent communication during patient transitions between clinicians. It stands for **I**ntroduction, **P**atient, **A**ssessment, **S**ituation, and **S**afety concerns. By organizing key information in a structured way, IPASS helps prevent errors, reduces misunderstandings, and promotes patient safety, ensuring that critical details about a patient's condition and care plan are accurately conveyed. This leads to improved continuity of care and minimized risks during shifts or transfers. I-PASS has been proven to reduce patient harm by up to 70%, and the return on investment (ROI) can be realized by mitigating even one adverse patient event. WHA recently hosted a webinar introducing I-PASS and is happy to connect you with resources and information. To learn how you can introduce IPASS in your organization, contact [Jenny Pritchett](#). To access the recording, click here: [I-PASS Webinar Recording](#).

NHSN Patient Safety Component Users: 2022 HAI Rebaseline Webinars

The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Rebaseline Team has announced new training opportunities for the 2022 Rebaseline. Join on December 18 and 19 for insightful webinars where the NHSN Team will present the new 2022 baseline risk adjustment models for SSI Complex 30-day (COLO and HYST) and MRSA bacteremia LabID; the webinars will discuss the methods, covariates used to calculate the Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) using the new 2022 baseline, how to run and interpret the new SIR reports in NHSN, and highlight additional training resources. These webinars are designed to deepen your understanding of the 2022 national baseline, helping NHSN users effectively apply the updated SSI and MRSA bacteremia SIRs to HAI surveillance and prevention work in their facilities and jurisdictions.

We encourage Patient Safety Component Facility and Group users who analyze SSI and MRSA bacteremia LabID SIR data to join these webinars or view the recordings. The webinars will be recorded and posted on the NHSN Rebaseline website, in the [Education & Training](#) tab.

Webinar Registration information:

2022 Rebaseline Webinar for SSI Complex 30-day SIR (inpatient Colon and Abdominal Hysterectomy)

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, 12-1 p.m. CST
[Registration link](#)

2022 Rebaseline Webinar for MRSA Bacteremia LabID Event SIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, 1-2 p.m. CST
[Registration link](#)

Important Note about the Webinar: These webinars assume that the audience has a general understanding of the SIR and HAI Rebaseline concepts, including its purpose and calculation, familiarity with the concept of a baseline in healthcare surveillance data, and basic knowledge of NHSN's Rebaseline process and how it impacts interpretation of SIR data. Prior to joining or viewing the webinar, we suggest that users review at least one of the following resources:

- [An Introduction to Updating the National Baseline](#)
- [Prep Like a Pro: What to Expect from the 2022 HAI Rebaseline](#)
- [Rebaseline Fact Sheet: What is the Rebaseline and Why it is Important?](#)
- [How Will My SIR Change; Understanding the Impact of the 2022 HAI Rebaseline](#)
- [Rebaseline FAQs](#)

Educational Events & Resources

Save the Date - 2025!

DNV Presents AI: Exploring the Algorithm webinar

When: Jan. 29, 2025, -- 12 p.m. CST

Register [here](#).

As AI ushers in a new era of productivity and capabilities, it also poses new risks that must be managed in new ways. AI relies on data, which itself can change, leading to results which may be difficult to understand. AI is also 'socio-technical' and is affected by a complex and dynamic interplay of human behavioral and technical factors. DNV can help develop the new risk approach that AI needs – both to ensure compliance with emerging regulations and to manage risks dynamically – to access the benefits of AI more rapidly, fully, and confidently. By understanding the key considerations to adopt AI-based tools in healthcare, DNV works towards identifying trust needs and practical assurance strategies to help enable AI adoption in healthcare.

DNV is a worldwide healthcare accrediting and certification agency that partners with healthcare organizations in adopting a systems-thinking approach to address risks and deliver high-quality, person-centered care. More than 2,400 healthcare industry organizations worldwide utilize DNV for their hospital accreditation, certification and training needs, including more than 600 hospitals in the United States.

Plan to join us for this informative webinar.

Superior Health Quality Alliance

WHA and Superior Health Present at the 2024 FOCUS Conference

Stacy Kopp, WHA Clinical Quality Improvement Manager, represented Superior Health and the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services 2024 FOCUS Conference. She co-presented a session titled "Caring for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)" alongside Mia Croyle, Behavioral Health Specialist at Metastar.

Their presentation explored the impact of policy and stigma on SUD care, with a focus on screening, care planning, harm reduction best practices, and available resources. The session also featured three interactive SUD case studies, offering real-world scenarios relevant to the long-term care environment.

It was an informative and engaging session, helping to enhance understanding of best practices for supporting individuals with SUD in healthcare settings.



To review the most up-to-date quality and patient safety data for Wisconsin hospitals, visit [CheckPoint](#).

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