

## Healthcare-Associated Infections Surveillance

Use the talking points below to engage your colleagues and others within your jurisdiction in a short, focused, and educational discussion. Facilitator notes included throughout this resource will provide tips for facilitating your discussion.

### 1. Share the objectives

**Facilitator notes:** Explain that today's infection prevention and control (IPC) educational session will be covering healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance. Share the objectives with the group so they know what information will be covered and what they can hope to gain from the session.

- **Introduce** HAIs, including device-associated infections and surgical site infections.
- **Introduce** HAI surveillance, methods, and purpose.

### 2. Introduce the topics

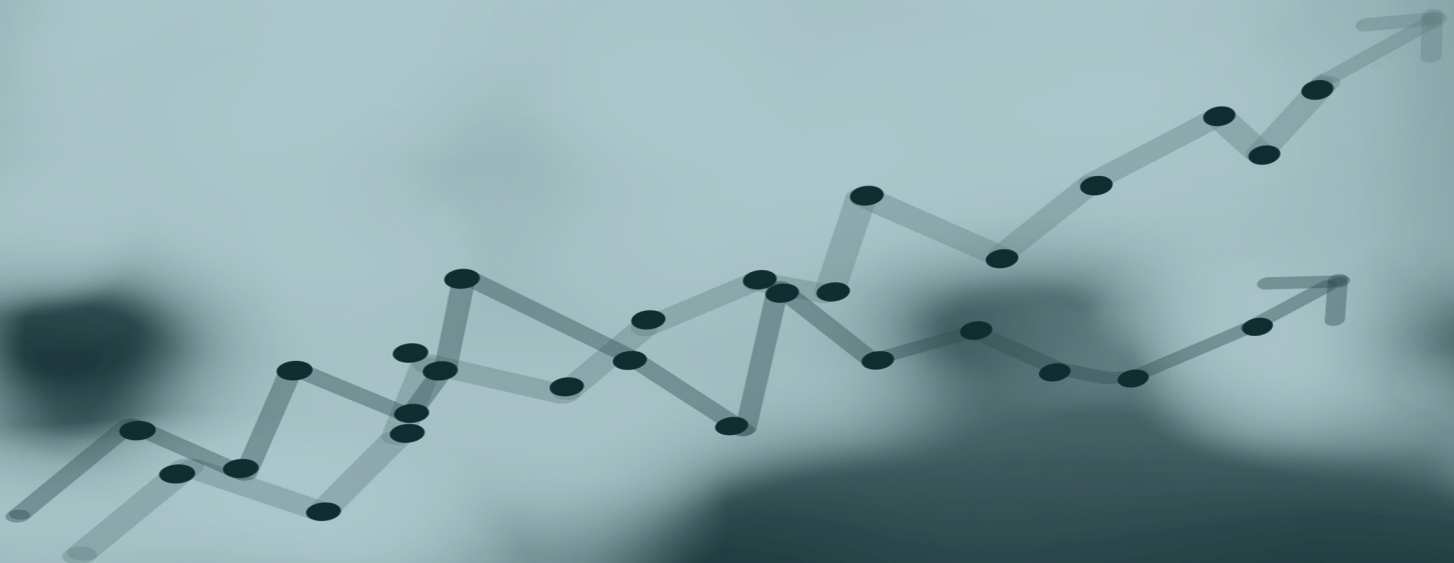
**Facilitator notes:** Open the discussion by asking the group what they know about HAIs or if they have any experience with HAI surveillance. After some discussion with the group, share the key points below to explore the topic further. When sharing, it may be helpful to connect these points to ideas the group just shared, relevant experiences, or happenings going on within your jurisdiction.

- HAIs are infections that occur after receiving health care in any setting, including hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient surgery centers, or rehabilitation facilities.  
[https://apic.org/monthly\\_alerts/what-are-healthcare-associated-infections/](https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/what-are-healthcare-associated-infections/)
- In order for HAIs to occur, germs must enter the body. This can occur through implanted medical devices or through a break in the skin or surgical site.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ssi/ssi.html>
  - Device-associated infections include:
    - Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/bsi/bsi.html>
    - Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs)  
[https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ca\\_uti/uti.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ca_uti/uti.html)
    - Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) infections  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/vap/vap.html>
    - **Facilitator note:** It may be helpful to visit each of the linked webpages to provide further details on each type of infection.
- Health care facilities monitor HAIs through surveillance plans.
  - Surveillance is a method of collecting data, analyzing intervention effectiveness by reviewing data, and taking appropriate action to reduce risk.

### 3. Expand on the topics

**Facilitator notes:** Now that you've introduced the topic, share more detailed information with the group using the key points below. It may be helpful to bring up the resources that are linked below and walk through them together. You can use these resources to further deepen the conversation and add more points of discussion.

- Both health care personnel (HCP) and patients play a role in preventing HAIs. By following infection prevention best practices, HCP and patients can help reduce the risk of HAIs.
  - HCP should follow specific strategies outlined by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to prevent device-associated infections or surgical site infections.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/bsi/clabsi-resources.html>
  - Patients can follow similar best practices to reduce their risk of an HAI if they require a medical device or surgery.  
[https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ssi/faq\\_ssi.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ssi/faq_ssi.html)
  - **Facilitator notes:** Bring up the webpages linked above to explore what HCP and patients can do to prevent HAIs. You may also choose to share the following 2-minute video on the roles that everyone, including HCP, public health, and patients, plays in preventing HAIs.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFuq3mNHav8>
- HAI surveillance data can be tracked through infection signs and symptoms logs, electronic surveillance programs, and spreadsheets.
  - State and federal requirements may indicate specific systems for data collection, for example the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) or CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).  
WEDSS: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wiphin/wedss.htm>  
NHSN: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/>
- Health care facilities practice surveillance to help recognize potential infections early so that containment and prevention strategies can be put into place.
  - Surveillance can also help identify trends and measure effectiveness of infection prevention programs.



## 4. Discuss with your colleagues

**Facilitator notes:** Now that you've introduced and reviewed the topic in more detail, this is a great time to pause, answer questions, and discuss as a group. It's encouraged that you use this discussion to brainstorm ways your LTHD can help improve practices within your jurisdiction and health care facilities. Below are some example questions you may discuss; you may also wish to discuss topics specific to your jurisdiction.

- What HAI investigations or outbreaks have occurred in our jurisdiction? How did we support the health care facility?
  - If an investigation or outbreak has not occurred, what are things that we could do to support the facility if an HAI were to occur? Does this look different based on the type of infection or type of facility?
- How can we engage with health care partners for HAI surveillance and prevention?

## 5. Wrap up and reinforce

**Facilitator notes:** Following the discussion, you may wish to reiterate the ideas and next steps that the group suggested. Invite the group to ask any remaining questions about the topic. Share the key takeaways below to wrap up the session.

- HAIs are a threat to community members seeking health care in our jurisdiction.
- HCP and patients have a shared responsibility in preventing HAIs.
- Surveillance is crucial to identify and prevent HAIs within a health care facility.

**Facilitator notes:** Below are a few additional notes and resources from CDC for LTHDs. You may choose to use this framework when addressing HAIs in your jurisdiction.

### What can LTHDs do?

LTHDs are important partners in preventing, responding to, and controlling HAIs. The CDC has outlined goals, objectives, and activities for LTHDs to serve as a guide for implementing HAI prevention and response strategies. These strategies will depend on local capacity and should be driven by local HAI prevalence.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/hai-ar-programs/resources/local-strategy/index.html>

#### LTHDs should aim to:

- Grow strong partnerships with health care facilities and partners within their jurisdiction.
- Built internal capacity to address HAIs.

