

2015 SSI Validation

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is validation mandatory?

Validation is not mandatory, but hospital participation/non-participation will be noted in the *HAI in California Hospitals Annual Public Report 2015* published on the CDPH HAI Program website. The HAI data reported by hospitals that did not participate in validation will be highlighted in all the data tables and on the HAI interactive map. For some hospitals, this may be an important factor in deciding to participate. Most hospitals will choose to participate because the validation process will help them evaluate and strengthen their SSI surveillance practices.

What if my hospital did not perform [these] surgeries in the first half of 2015?

You should still complete a Results Submission Form. The form will be abbreviated and only require that you identify the hospital, enter contact information and indicate that your hospital did not perform the surgeries. This helps the HAI Program track which hospitals did and did not participate in validation.

How long will it take?

The HAI Program has experience validating NHSN data in hospitals, which has included comprehensive medical record review of suspect HAI. In one past validation, Liaison IPs validated up to 20 CLABSI and SSI records plus LabID events in one day. 2015 SSI Validation will require review of a maximum of 40 records (likely fewer). We therefore do not anticipate the medical chart review process will take longer than two days.

The number of records reviewed will be determined by the procedures “flagged” using the post-operative ICD diagnosis codes. We expect the process of acquiring the list of flagged procedures necessary for validation from your billing department may take days or weeks. We therefore encourage IPs to contact their billing departments early to begin this process.

How will the results be used?

The HAI Program will use validation results (submitted via the online Results Submission Form) to identify hospitals that may need assistance with their SSI surveillance or the validation process. Aggregate results may be made public or presented at stakeholder meetings; hospital-specific data will not be shared.