COVID-19 Updates, Influenza Vaccination Reporting, and NHSN Updates

Welcome!

Chat to Technical Support if you need assistance

Presented by:
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Infection Prevention Technical Advisor

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Donald Chitanda, MPH, CIC

INFECTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Donald is a health professional with experience in public health epidemiology and infection prevention. Over the past several years, he worked as an infection preventionist at the hospital- and system-level, where he was part of a task force to ensure the safety of caregivers and patients during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, he was a part of and led several projects to reduce hospital-acquired infections utilizing Lean Six Sigma methodologies. He is also trained in ensuring ongoing facility survey readiness for regulatory agencies such as the CMS and The Joint Commission.

Donald enjoys spending time with family and doing outdoor activities.

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Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC

PATIENT SAFETY MANAGER

Amy is a registered nurse with a diverse background in acute care nursing, microbiology, epidemiology and infection control. She is passionate about leading and mentoring new and future infection preventionists in their career paths and assisting them in reducing healthcare-associated infections across the continuum of care.

Amy enjoys spending time with her family. She loves all the time she can get outdoors camping, bicycling and running.

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Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC

INFECTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Paula is a doctoral student with a diverse background in public health, infection prevention, epidemiology, and microbiology. She has over 10 years of health care experience and enjoys public health and identifying ways to improve health outcomes, specifically those related to healthcare-associated infections.

Paula enjoys spending time with her friends and family.

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Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC

INFECTION PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Erica Umeakunne is an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner and infection preventionist with experience in primary care, critical care, health care administration and public health.

She was previously the interim hospital epidemiology director for a large health care system in Atlanta and a nurse consultant in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. While at the CDC, she served as an infection prevention and control (IPC) subject matter expert for domestic and international IPC initiatives and emergency responses, including Ebola outbreaks and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Erica enjoys reading, traveling, family time and outdoor activities.

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Objectives

Agenda:
• NHSN reporting updates
• Q&A
May Shop Talk Review
NHSN Reporting - What Now?

• 2020- CMS published an IFC (CMS-5531-IFC) requiring all LTC facilities to report COVID-19 information using the NHSN (42 CFR 483(g). This requirement was extended through a final rule (CMS-1747-F) and is set to terminate on December 31, 2024. 
This excludes requirements at § 483.80(g)(1)(viii)

NHSN Reporting - What Now?

- CMS issued an IFC (CMS–3414–IFC) requiring facilities to report the COVID-19 vaccination status of residents and staff through NHSN (§483.80(g)(1)(viii)). Through a subsequent rulemaking on November 9, 2021, at CMS-1747-F, the requirement for reporting the COVID-19 vaccine status of residents and staff through NHSN is permanent and will continue indefinitely unless additional regulatory action is taken.

COVID-19 reporting. Until December 31, 2024, with the exception of the requirements in paragraph (g)(1)(viii) of this section, the facility must do all of the following:

(i) Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infections among residents and staff, including residents previously treated for COVID-19.

(ii) Total deaths and COVID-19 deaths among residents and staff.

(iii) Personal protective equipment and hand hygiene supplies in the facility.

(iv) Ventilator capacity and supplies in the facility.

(v) Resident beds and census.

(vi) Access to COVID-19 testing while the resident is in the facility.

(vii) Staffing shortages.

(viii) The COVID-19 vaccine status of residents and staff, including total numbers of residents and staff, numbers of residents and staff vaccinated, numbers of each dose of COVID-19 vaccine received, and COVID-19 vaccination adverse events.

(ix) Therapeutics administered to residents for treatment of COVID-19.

NHSN Reporting - What Now?

The COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways will undergo updates in response to the end of the Public Health Emergency, including:

• Reducing vaccination elements to include only up-to-date status for residents with a positive COVID-19 test
• Removal of influenza and staffing and supply shortages data fields
• Removal of deaths in the Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway
• Removal of the therapeutics pathway
• Addition of a new data field, hospitalizations, in the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway to assess relevant outcome data on residents with a positive COVID-19 test
Upcoming NHSN webinars tentatively scheduled:

June 1st
June 7th

Contact NHSN@cdc.gov for more information.
NHSN Updates - Pathway Reporting
COVID-19 Surveillance pathways versus COVID-19 Vaccination Modules

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COVID-19 Surveillance Pathways</strong></th>
<th><strong>COVID-19 Vaccination Module</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reporting requirements</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reporting requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CMS certified facilities are required to report at least once every reporting week</td>
<td>Weekly reporting requirement for LTC residents and staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Report at least once every reporting week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Requirement to go through December 2024</td>
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<td>Requirement to go through December 2024</td>
<td>Quarterly Reporting Requirement for Staff</td>
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<td>• Report vaccination data 1 week/month for staff</td>
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<td>• After the weekly requirement expires in Dec. 2024, continue to report 1 week/month for staff</td>
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<td>• Use the “COVID-19 Vaccination-HCP” tab in order to report these data</td>
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</tbody>
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**Additional COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Resources:**
- Operational Guidance for Reporting COVID-19 Vaccination Data
- FAQs on Reporting COVID-19 Vaccination Data
Modifications to the COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways

Resident Impact and Facility Capacity
- Newly Positive Tests
- Vaccination status
- Deaths
- Testing Availability
- Influenza
- Supplies/PPE Shortages

Staff and Personnel Impact
- Newly Positive Tests
- COVID-19 Deaths
- Influenza
- Staffing Shortages

Therapeutics
- Residents treated
- In house Stock
- Stock Stored Outside the LTCF

Adding
- Hospitalizations

*Not Up to Date: Auto-populated field included in the RIFC pathway

Removing Pathway
RIFC Pathway: Removing Data Elements

- Admissions

Vaccination Status Variables to be Removed:

- Primary Series
  - Not Vaccinated
  - Partial Vaccination
  - Complete Primary Vaccination Series
- Additional or Booster Vaccination
- One Booster
- Two or More Boosters

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
RIFC Pathway: Removing Data Elements

- Influenza
- Testing Availability
- Supplies and PPE Shortages
  - Urgent Need
  - Supply Items
    - N95 Respirator
    - Face mask
    - Eye Protection
    - Gowns
    - Gloves
RIFC Pathway: Removing Data Elements

Resident Deaths

- **TOTAL DEATHS**: Number of residents who have died for any reason in the facility or another location. Include only the number of new deaths since the most recent date data were collected for NHSN reporting.

- **COVID-19 DEATHS**: Based on the number reported for Total Deaths, indicate the number of residents who died from COVID-19 or related complications, either in the facility or another location.

Resident Impact for Non-COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Respiratory Illness:

- **INFLUENZA**: Number of Residents with new influenza (flu).

SARS-CoV-2 TESTING

- **TESTING AVAILABILITY**: Does the LTCF have the ability to perform or to obtain resources for performing SARS-CoV-2 viral testing (NAAT [PCR] or antigen) on all residents, staff and facility personnel if needed?

Supplies and PPE Shortages

- **Urgent Need**: Indicate if facility will no longer have any PPE supply items in 7 days.
RIFC Pathway: New Auto-populated Field

Not Up to Date

- This includes residents who may have received COVID-19 vaccination(s), but are not yet up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations per the NHSN Surveillance definition

  and/or

- 14 days or more has not passed since the time the resident received the vaccination, to qualify them as up to date, and the day they tested positive for COVID-19 (newly positive COVID-19 test)
RIFC Pathway: New Auto-populated Field

Not Up to Date

- Auto-populated by the system
- Not editable (grayed out in the application)
  - In order to change/edit this count, counts entered for *Up to Date* and/or *Positive Tests* will need to be revised
- Calculated by subtracting the *Up to Date* count from the *Positive Test* count
  - Not Up to Date = Positive tests – Up to Date

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Not Up to Date Example:

- DHQP Nursing Home had 5 residents with a newly positive COVID-19 test since the last date data were reported to NHSN. Of these 5 residents, 3 of them received the Bivalent Booster dose 6 months ago and the other 2 residents received the Bivalent dose 15 days prior to testing positive.

- How should the vaccination status of these residents with a newly positive COVID-19 test be reported in the RIFC Pathway?

Not Up to Date Example Answer:

How should the vaccination status of these residents with a newly positive COVID-19 test be reported in the RIFC Pathway?

- **Positive Test Count:** 5
- **Up to Date Count:** 5
  - 3 residents received the Bivalent dose 6 months ago
  - 2 residents received the Bivalent dose 15 days ago
    - They are considered up to date per the NHSN Surveillance Definition and received the vaccine 14 days or more prior to testing positive

- **Not Up to Date:** 0
  - Auto-populated by the system
    - **Positive Tests - Up to Date**
      - 5 – 5 = 0
Not Up to Date Example Answer:
How should the vaccination status of these residents with a newly positive COVID-19 test be reported in the RIFC Pathway?

Resident Impact for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

5
* POSITIVE TESTS: Enter the Number of residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result (for example, a positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test and/or SARS-CoV-2 NAAT (PCR).
Note: Do not include residents who have a positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test, but a negative SARS-CoV-2 NAAT (PCR).
Only include residents newly positive since the most recent date data were collected for NHSN reporting.

Vaccination Status of Residents with a Newly Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Viral Test Result

Up to Date: Include residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines 14 days or more before the specimen collection date.
Note: Please review the current NHSN surveillance definition of up to date.

Not Up to Date: Based on the counts entered for POSITIVE TESTS and UP TO DATE, the count for residents who are NOT considered up to date based on the NHSN Surveillance definition has been calculated above.
This count is not editable, to edit please update the count entered for UP TO DATE.

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
RIFC Pathway Vaccination Status

“Vaccination status” of residents newly positive for SARS-CoV-2 through viral testing methods is reported in the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Pathway.

- **NOT** to be confused with the weekly COVID-19 vaccination summary data used to report cumulative vaccination coverage for residents who have received COVID-19 vaccination at the facility or elsewhere.

RIFC Pathway Vaccination Status

14-day window for determining vaccination status

- For residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result, a COVID-19 vaccine dose received inside the 14-day window (specifically, received 13 days or less before the specimen collection date), is not counted when reporting vaccination status.

Example: Mr. Andrews received the primary COVID-19 vaccine series in 2021 and received 2 additional monovalent booster doses since then. He also received the Bivalent dose 12 days ago. Mr. Andrews also tested positive for COVID-19 this week, however since he did not receive the Bivalent dose 14 days or more prior to testing positive, he will not be included in the Up to Date count.
Vaccination Status: 14 Day Window

Day 1

Day of vaccination

Specimen Collection of positive COVID-19 test: this vaccination is NOT counted

Specimen Collection of positive COVID-19 test: this vaccination IS counted

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Reporting Vaccination Status Example:

4 residents in DHQP nursing home tested positive since the last date data were reported to NHSN:

- Two residents received a monovalent booster dose 6 months after they received the primary series. They also received the Bivalent dose 2 days ago.

- One resident received a monovalent booster dose 12 months after they received the primary series of COVID-19 Vaccine. Then received the Bivalent dose 2 months ago.

- One resident received a second monovalent booster dose 8 months after they received the primary series of COVID-19 Vaccine. They have not received any other COVID-19 vaccines since this time (they have NOT received the Bivalent dose).
Up to Date Vaccination Status Example

How will DHQP record these data in the RIFC pathway?

Positive Tests: 4
Up to Date: 1
Not Up to Date: 3

- NOTE: This variable is auto-populated by the system

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Vaccination Status of Residents with a Newly Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Viral Test Result

Up to Date: Include residents with a newly positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines 14 days or more before the specimen collection date.

Note: Please review the current NHSN surveillance definition of up to date.

Not Up to Date: Based on the counts entered for POSITIVE TESTS and UP TO DATE, the count for residents who are NOT considered up to date based on the NHSN Surveillance definition has been calculated above.

This count is not editable; to edit please update the count entered for UP TO DATE.

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*NHSN Surveillance Definition Guidance Document
RIFC Pathway Newly Added Data Element: Hospitalizations

- **Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test:** Number of residents who have been hospitalized with a positive COVID-19 test.

  Note: Only include residents who have been hospitalized during this reporting period and had a positive COVID-19 test in the 10 days prior to the hospitalization, date of specimen collection is calendar day 1.

- **Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date:** Based on the number reported above for “Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test”, indicate the number of residents who were hospitalized with a positive COVID-19 test and also up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations at the time of the positive COVID-19 test.

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
RIFC Pathway Newly Added Data Element: Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test:

- Number of residents who have been hospitalized (for any reason) and also had a positive COVID-19 test.
- Only include residents who have been hospitalized during this reporting period and had a positive COVID-19 test in the 10 days prior to the hospitalization, date of specimen collection is calendar day 1.

How to calculate:

- How many residents have been hospitalized since the last date data were reported to NHSN?
  - Of those residents how many had a positive COVID-19 test within the past 10 days?
Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test Decision Tree

Has the Resident been admitted to the hospital since the last date data were reported to NHSN?

- YES
  - Did the resident have a positive COVID-19 test 10 days or less prior to the hospitalization?
    - YES
      - Include in Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test count
    - NO
      - DO NOT Include in Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test

- NO
**RIFC Pathway Newly Added Data Element: Hospitalizations**

- **Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date**
  - Based on the number reported for “Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test”, indicate the number of residents who were hospitalized with a positive COVID-19 test and also up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations at the time of the positive COVID-19 test.

**How to calculate:**

- How many residents have been included in the *Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test* count?
  - Of those included in the *Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test* count how many are up to date per the NHSN Surveillance Definition?
    - Of those who are up to date, how many received the vaccine 14 days or more before the newly positive COVID-19 test?
Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date Decision Tree

Was the resident included in the Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test count?

- **NO**

- **YES**
  
  Is the resident considered up to date per the NHSN Surveillance definition?

  - **NO**
    
    DO NOT Include in Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date count

  - **YES**
    
    Did the resident receive the COVID-19 dose qualifying them as up to date (per the NHSN Surveillance definition) 14 days or more before the positive COVID-19 test?

      - **NO**
      
      DO NOT Include in Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date count

      - **YES**
        
        Include in Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date count

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Hospitalizations Example 1:

- Mr. Smith is an 89-year-old resident who tested positive for COVID-19 five days ago and since then has been progressively experiencing more severe symptoms. Today, he has been experiencing shortness of breath and was transferred to the ER for further evaluation. After spending several hours in the ER, Mr. Smith was admitted to the Med Surg floor and stayed in the hospital for 3 days before returning to the facility.
- Mr. Smith received the Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine last year.

Should Mr. Smith be included in the Hospitalizations count?

Hospitalizations Example 1 Answer Continued:

How to calculate Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date:

- How many residents have been included in the Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test count?
  - 1, Mr. Smith
    - Of those included in the Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test count, how many are up to date per the NHSN Surveillance Definition?
      - 1, Mr. Smith. He received the Bivalent Booster last year which qualifies him as up to date per the NHSN Surveillance definition.
    - Of those who are up to date, how many received the vaccine 14 days or more before the newly positive COVID-19 test?
      - 1, Mr. Smith. Since he received the Bivalent dose a year ago this would be 14 days or more prior to the newly positive COVID-19 test.
RIFC Pathway: Data Reporting Example

- Mrs. Daisy is an 88-year-old resident at DHQP nursing home. Mrs. Daisy began having chills and a fever 3 days ago and since then has started to experience shortness of breath. She also tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday. Mrs. Daisy received the primary COVID-19 vaccine series in 2021 and has since received 3 additional booster doses. She received the most recent dose, the Bivalent dose, 3 months ago. Since she has been experiencing shortness of breath, she has been transferred and also admitted to the hospital for further treatment (admitted to the 4th floor).

- Mr. Tulip is a 70-year-old resident at DHQP nursing home. Mr. Tulip received the Bivalent dose 2 months ago. Mr. Tulip was transferred to the hospital this week due to a fall and has been admitted to the 2nd floor.

- Mrs. Rose is a 92-year-old resident of DHQP nursing home and tested positive for COVID-19 during this reporting week. She has not received any COVID-19 vaccines. Mrs. Rose has not been transferred to the hospital yet but is starting to experience more severe symptoms.

*DHQP Nursing Home did not have any deaths during this reporting week
RIFC Pathway: Data Reporting Example

Mrs. Daisy is an 88-year-old resident at DHQP nursing home. Mrs. Daisy began having chills and a fever 3 days ago and since then has started to experience shortness of breath. She also tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday. Mrs. Daisy received the primary COVID-19 vaccine series in 2021 and has since received 3 additional booster doses. She received the most recent dose, the Bivalent dose, 3 months ago. Since she has been experiencing shortness of breath, she has been transferred and also admitted to the hospital for further treatment (admitted to the 4th floor).

- Mrs. Daisy would be included in the following:
  - Positive Tests
  - Up to Date
  - Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test
  - Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test and Up to Date
RIFC Pathway: Data Reporting Example

- Mr. Tulip is a 70-year-old resident at DHQP nursing home. Mr. Tulip received the Bivalent dose 2 months ago. Mr. Tulip was transferred to the hospital this week due to a fall and has been admitted to the 2nd floor.

  - Mr. Tulip would NOT be included in any of the variables for the RIFC Pathway:
    - He did not have a positive test during this reporting week
    - He was transferred to the hospital; however, he did not have a positive COVID-19 test in the 10 days prior to admission
RIFC Pathway: Data Reporting Example

- Mrs. Rose is a 92-year-old resident of DHQP nursing home and tested positive for COVID-19 during this reporting week. She has not received any COVID-19 vaccines. Mrs. Rose has not been transferred to the hospital yet, but is starting to experience more severe symptoms.
  - Mrs. Rose would be included in the following:
    - Positive Tests
    - Not Up to Date: She will automatically be included in the count; the user will not have to manually enter a count for Not up to Date.

- Mrs. Rose was not transferred to the hospital during this reporting week. If she is transferred during the next reporting week, she will be included in the Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 Test count.
  - However, she would NOT be included in the Hospitalizations with a positive COVID-19 test and up to date count since she has not received ANY COVID-19 vaccinations.
RIFC
Pathway: Data Reporting Example

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway

- The *Positive Test* count will be the ONLY reporting variable in this pathway
Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway: Removing Data Elements

- COVID-19 Deaths
- Influenza
- Staffing shortages

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Staff and Personnel Impact Pathway

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Therapeutics Pathway: Removing Pathway

- Removing this pathway
  - Facilities will no longer need to report data to this pathway

Screenshots from 6/7/23 NHSN training event
Tips for NHSN Reporting: COVID-19 Surveillance Pathways

- Report in the pathway at least once during the reporting week
- Report only **new counts** since the last time counts were collected for reporting to NHSN
- Do not leave any data fields blank; enter ‘0’ if appropriate

**Important!** Facilities reporting to NHSN still need to follow state and local public health reporting requirements.
Reminders

Do not report cumulative counts (Report only **new counts** since the last time counts were collected for reporting to NHSN).

Report data into the COVID-19 Module **at least** once a week.
Questions?
Q: When will the new forms be available? When do we begin to use the new forms?
Response from NHSN:

The updates for the LTCF COVID-19 Surveillance Pathways (Resident Impact and Facility Capacity, Staff and Personnel Impact) are planned to go live in **mid to late June**.
Q: Just to clarify, is the vaccination pathway reporting only required to be submitted one week out of the month? I report weekly, but I’m curious if there is a penalty if one week is missed.
A: CMS-certified long-term care facilities will still need to report to the LTCF COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways (Resident Impact and Facility Capacity, Staff and Personnel impact and therapeutics) and the COVID-19 vaccination module after the public health emergency was declared over on May 11, 2023. Please note: The COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways and the COVID-19 Vaccination module are two separate modules, and data must be reported to both on a weekly basis. Reporting to only one module DOES NOT satisfy the CMS reporting requirements.
Thank You for Your Time!
Contact the Patient Safety Team

patientssafety@alliantHealth.org

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Mark Your Calendar!

Shop Talk
3rd Thursdays at 2 p.m. ET

Registration Link
Visit our website for more info:
https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/shop-talks/
Nursing Home and Partnership for Community Health: CMS 12th SOW GOALS

**OPIOID UTILIZATION AND MISUSE**
- Promote opioid best practices
- Reduce opioid adverse drug events in all settings

**PATIENT SAFETY**
- Reduce hospitalizations due to c. diff
- Reduce adverse drug events
- Reduce facility acquired infections

**CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT**
- Increase instances of adequately diagnosed and controlled hypertension
- Increase use of cardiac rehabilitation programs
- Reduce instances of uncontrolled diabetes
- Identify patients at high-risk for kidney disease and improve outcomes

**CARE COORDINATION**
- Convene community coalitions
- Reduce avoidable readmissions, admissions to hospitals and preventable emergency department visits
- Identify and promote optimal care for super utilizers

**COVID-19**
- Support nursing homes by establishing a safe visitor policy and cohort plan
- Provide virtual events to support infection control and prevention
- Support nursing homes and community coalitions with emergency preparedness plans

**IMMUNIZATION**
- Increase influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 vaccination rates

**TRAINING**
- Encourage completion of infection control and prevention trainings by front line clinical and management staff