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February 2026 Dialysis Office Hours

Benefits of Accurate Reporting on the Outpatient Dialysis Survey

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Agenda

- **About the Outpatient Dialysis Survey**
- **Why accurate reporting on the Outpatient Dialysis Survey is important**
- **How survey data are used to support infection prevention activities**
- **How survey data are used in BSI SIR calculation and rebaselining**
- **How survey data are used for outreach**
- **How survey data support research and analytic efforts**
- **How reported data contribute to publications and real-world public health impact**

Purpose of the Outpatient Dialysis Survey

- **Collects standardized data on dialysis facilities and services**
- **Informs federal, state, and local public health efforts**
- **Supports oversight, quality improvement, and patient safety**
- **Enables comparison across regions and time**

Timeline and Reporting Consequences

- The survey is made available annually in February.
- Facilities must complete and save the current year Annual Survey; while CDC does not set deadlines, organizations may establish internal deadlines.
- Facilities cannot create Monthly Reporting Plans or submit monthly data (May–December) until the current year Annual Survey is completed.
- Without a completed survey, denominator (patient days) and numerator data (events) cannot get entered to NHSN.

Impact of Survey Data

- **Identifies potential over or under reporting and supports targeted facility level follow up**
- **Informs data quality improvement and analytic validation efforts**
- **Enables high quality epidemiologic and health services research**
- **Supports analyses of access to care, outcomes, disparities, and trends**
- **Informs identification of best practices and emerging risks**
- **The 2023 Baseline SIR calculations are derived from Annual Survey data, making accurate data entry critical.**

Annual Survey and 2023 Rebaseline

- Annual Survey data are necessary to calculate the newly rebaselined Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR).
- The process of updating how the SIR is calculated is called rebaselining, and the Annual Survey played an integral role.
- Previously, the dialysis SIR was based on 2014 data and considered access type only, whereas other HAI SIRs use models that incorporate additional factors.
- The updated dialysis SIR uses 2023 data and is calculated using a statistical model that includes access type and facility characteristics collected through the Annual Survey.

Annual Survey and 2023 Rebaseline *Continued...*

- **Subject matter experts reviewed the entire survey to identify factors that impact facility infection control and determined which items are important for BSI SIR calculations.**
- **After in-depth survey review and discussion, facility location (free-standing, hospital-located, hospital-affiliated) and number of stations were selected for testing in a statistical model.**
- **The updated SIR now reflects current healthcare practices and incorporates critical factors that impact infection rates.**

Benefits for Research

- **Enables high quality epidemiologic and health services research**
- **Supports studies on access to care, outcomes, and disparities**
- **Improves validity of trend analyses and predictive modeling**
- **Helps researchers identify best practices and emerging risks**

Research Projects Based on the Survey

- [Facility Reported Hepatitis C Virus Prevalence and Screening Practices in U.S.](#)
- [Vital Signs: Health Disparities in Hemodialysis-Associated Staphylococcus aureus Bloodstream Infections United States, 2017–2020](#)
- [A Six Year Follow Up of Bloodstream Infections in Hemodialysis Facilities \(2020\)](#)
- [CDC NHSN Dialysis Event Reports](#)

Key Takeaways

- Annual Survey completion is required.
- Accurate data supports accurate reporting and analysis.
- Survey data drives public health action and research.
- Your participation strengthens national surveillance.
- Accurate data helps protect patients and improves care.

RESOURCES

- [Dialysis Event Protocol](#)
- [Dialysis NHSN Training](#)
- [NHSN Introduction Training](#)
- [NHSN Application](#)
- [NHSN Dialysis Forms and Instructions](#)

Contact Info:

If you have any questions, please submit a ticket using the [NHSN ServiceNow Portal](#) or email the NHSN Help Desk at nhsn@cdc.gov.



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Thank you.

For more information, contact CDC

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