

NMDOH HAI Definitions and Abbreviations

Terms

Central line – A central blood line is a flexible tube that is inserted into one of the large blood vessels that goes into or near the heart that can be used to give fluids, medical treatments, liquid nutrition, and to monitor patients' hemodynamic status.

Central line-associated bloodstream infection – Central line-associated bloodstream infections can result if an intravenous catheter is inserted incorrectly or not cared for properly.

***Clostridium difficile* infection** – *C. difficile* is one of the most common causes of infection of the colon that causes a gastrointestinal illness. Symptoms can range from diarrhea to life-threatening inflammation of the colon.

Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) – Healthcare-associated infections are those that occur while patients are receiving treatment for other conditions.

Intensive care unit (ICU) – An ICU is a specialized section of a hospital that provides comprehensive and continuous care for persons who are critically ill and who can benefit from treatment.

Learning collaborative – An HAI learning collaborative is a proven mechanism that expands opportunities for healthcare facilities to share and implement best practices to reduce infections through active engagement in shared learning and positive peer pressure.

Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) – MRSA causes a staph infection (pronounced "staff infection") that is resistant to several common antibiotics. There are two types of infection. Hospital-associated MRSA happens to people in healthcare settings. Community-associated MRSA happens to people who have close skin-to-skin contact with others, such as athletes involved in football and wrestling.

Organizations

(CMS) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid – The US federal agency which administers Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

(NHSN) National Healthcare Safety Network – The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is a voluntary, secure, internet-based surveillance system that integrates and expands legacy patient and healthcare personnel safety surveillance systems managed by the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) at CDC.

(TJC) The Joint Commission – An independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.