

**Department of State Health Services
Council Work Session Agenda Memo for State Health Services Council
September 14, 2011**

Agenda Item Title: Amendments to rules concerning the reporting of healthcare-associated infections

Agenda Number: 2.a

Recommended Council Action:

For Discussion Only

For Discussion and Action by the Council

Background:

The Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Branch is responsible for implementing the proposed new rules. The Branch is located within the Infectious Disease Control Unit, Infectious Disease Prevention Section, Division of Prevention and Preparedness Services. The Branch manages infectious disease surveillance activities for approximately 50 reportable conditions and assists local and regional health departments in disease control and prevention activities. Approximately \$1.2 million in federal funds from five different grants or cooperative agreements and approximately \$2.4 million in state funds support the Branch.

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 98, Reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections, was amended during the 80th Texas legislative session. Chapter 98 requires DSHS to establish a reporting system for healthcare-associated infections (HAI). The chapter requires the reporting system to collect data through a secure, electronic interface.

Title 25, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 200, Healthcare-Associated Infections, specifies the reporting requirements for the HAI program. The HAI reporting program within the Branch is responsible for implementation and management of HAI reporting by Texas licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers in accordance with the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 98 and TAC, Chapter 200.

Summary:

The purpose of the amendments is to align the rule language with the revised Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 98, which was amended due to passage of Senate Bill 7, 82nd Legislature, First Special Session, 2011.

Senate Bill 7 amended Chapter 98 to allow the Executive Commissioner to designate the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as the secure computer system that facilities must use to report the infection data prescribed in this chapter. The amendments mandated that facilities allow DSHS access to the reportable data and removed the requirement for reporting if a facility performs less than a monthly average of 50 of any combination of reportable procedures.

Proposed amendments to 25 TAC, Sections 200.2, 200.4, 200.6, and 200.9 will conform to the new requirements in Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 98.

Key Health Measures:

The data reported by Texas licensed facilities to the NHSN beginning in January 2012, and then collected by DSHS (both of which are now required in the revised Chapter 98), will be presented to the public via the DSHS HAI website in late 2012. This will provide consumers with data regarding surgical site infections and central line

associate infections that can be compared to other facilities and against national averages so that consumers can make better informed decisions regarding their personal health care. (NOTE: The time frame between initiation of reporting in January 2012 and posting to the web in late 2012 enables collection of a full six months of data, compilation of data, and facility review of data before posting.)

It will also allow facilities to review their data and other facilities' data, which may be conducive to improve health practices to reduce the incidence of these infections, and thus better health care and lower costs.

Summary of Input from Stakeholder Groups:

The proposed rule amendment will be discussed with stakeholders prior to proposal to the December State Health Services Council meeting.

The Branch will work with the various stakeholder groups, particularly but not limited to:

- DSHS Advisory Panel on Healthcare-Associated Infections and Preventable Adverse Events
- Texas Hospital Association
- Children's Hospital Association of Texas
- Texas Ambulatory Surgery Center Society
- Various chapters of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and the Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners

Approved by Assistant Commissioner/Director: Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H. **Date:** August 22, 2011

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Approved by CCEA: Carolyn Bivens **Date:** August 29, 2011