National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

OMB Control No. 0920-0666

Expiration 12/31/2017

Revision Request

Supporting Statement Part A

Daniel A. Pollock. MD

Surveillance Branch Chief

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4018

Phone: (404) 639-4237

Fax: (404) 639-4043

Email: dap1@cdc.gov

**OMB No. 0920-0666**

**National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)**

**Revision Request, June 2015**

**Supporting Statement Part A – Table of Contents**

1. Justification
	1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary
	2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection
	3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction
	4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information
	5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities
	6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently
	7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5
	8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency
	9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents
	10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents
	11. Justification for Sensitive Questions
	12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs
	13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents and Record Keepers
	14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government
	15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments
	16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule
	17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate
	18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission

**Attachments**

1. Public Health Service Act
2. 42 USC 242b
3. 42 USC 242k
4. 42 USC 242m
5. 60 Day Federal Register Notice
6. NHSN Forms Submitted for Approval
7. ICR Revision Supporting Documentation
8. Explanations and justifications for proposed revisions to OMB 0920-0666
9. Itemized IC Revisions and Justifications
10. Revision of Estimated Annual Burden Hours
11. Revision of Estimated Annual Cost Burden
12. CMS Reporting Requirements
	1. NHSN Forms used for CMS QRPs and State Mandated Reporting
	2. Acute Care Facilities, Long-term Acute Care Facilities, and Oncology Hospitals – CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI, MRSA LabID, CDI LabID, VAE, FLU
	3. Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities – CAUTI, LabID, FLU
	4. Dialysis Facilities – Dialysis Event, FLU
	5. Ambulatory Surgical Centers and Outpatient Acute Care Facility Departments – FLU
	6. Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities – FLU
13. Notice of IRB Closure
14. Closure of NHSN IRB Protocol
15. NHSN - Report of End of Human Research Review 0.1253
16. Surveillance Methods Supporting Materials
17. Crosswalk for Supporting Documentation in Attachment G and Corresponding Data Collection Forms in Attachment C
18. Antimicrobial Use and Resistance
19. Biovigilance Component
20. Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection
21. Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection
22. Central Line Insertion Practices Adherence
23. Denominators for Patient Safety Component
24. Dialysis Event
25. Dialysis Patient Influenza Vaccination
26. Dialysis Prevention Process Measures
27. Healthcare Personnel Exposure
28. LTCF MDRO CDI
29. LTCF Prevention Process Measures
30. LTCF Urinary Tract Infection
31. MDRO & CDI
32. Outpatient Procedure Component
33. Surgical Site Infection
34. Surveys – Hospital, LTAC, IRF, and Dialysis
35. Ventilator-Associated Event
36. Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia
37. NHSN Assurance of Confidentiality Documentation
	1. NHSN 308d Approval 2010
	2. NHSN 308d Approval Memo 2010
	3. NHSN 308d Request for Extension and Amendment
* The goal of the study is to provide facilities, states, regions, and the nation with data needed to identify problem areas, measure progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate healthcare-associated infections.
* The intended uses of the resulting data are: estimate the magnitude of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), monitor HAI trends; facilitate interfacility and intrafacility comparisons with risk-adjusted data that can be used for local quality improvement activities; enable healthcare facilities to report HAI and prevention practice adherence data via NHSN to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in fulfillment of CMS’s quality measurement reporting requirements for those data; and provide to state agencies, at their request, facility-specific, NHSN patient safety component and healthcare personnel safety component adverse event and prevention practice adherence data for surveillance, prevention, or mandatory public reporting.
* The data for NHSN are collected via a secure Internet application.
* NHSN participation is open all US healthcare facilities.
* Reporting institutions will be able to access their own data at any time and analyze them through the internet interface. Reports containing aggregated data will be produced annually and posted on the NHSN website, which is <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn>. The report is also published annually in a scientific journal to make NHSN data widely available. Other in-depth analysis of data from the NHSN will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at scientific and professional meetings.

**OMB No. 0920-0666**

**National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)**

**Revision Request, June 2015**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is requesting 3-year approval of revisions to OMB Control No. 0920-0666: National Healthcare Safety Network. This collection is currently approved for 8,975,750 responses and 4,277,716 burden hours. This revision request includes removing two forms and revisions to 27 previously approved forms. The reporting burden will increase by 343,826 hours, for a total estimated burden of 4,621,542 hours; annual cost of reporting would increase by $22,387,097.

**A. Justification**

**1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

Background

The Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP), National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects data from healthcare facilities in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) under OMB Control Number 0920-0666. NHSN began as a voluntary surveillance system in 2005 and is managed by the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. NHSN provides facilities, states, regions, and the nation with data needed to identify problem areas, measure progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). In addition, NHSN allows healthcare facilities to track blood safety errors and important healthcare process measures such as healthcare personnel influenza vaccine status and infection control adherence rates.

The NHSN currently consists of five components: Patient Safety, Healthcare Personnel Safety, Biovigilance, Long-Term Care Facility, and Dialysis. One new component will be added to NHSN within the next one to two years: Outpatient Procedure Component. In general, the data reported under the Patient Safety Component protocols are used to (1) determine the magnitude of the healthcare-associated adverse events under study, trends in the rates of the events, in the distribution of pathogens, and in the adherence to prevention practices, and (2) to detect changes in the epidemiology of adverse events resulting from new medical therapies and changing patient risks. Additionally, reported data will be used to describe the epidemiology of antimicrobial use and resistance and to understand the relationship of antimicrobial therapy to this growing problem. Under the Healthcare Personnel Safety Component protocols, data on events--both positive and adverse--are used to determine (1) the magnitude of adverse events in healthcare personnel and (2) compliance with immunization and sharps injuries safety guidelines. Under the Biovigilance Component, data on adverse reactions and incidents associated with blood transfusions are used to provide national estimates of adverse reactions and incidents. The Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) Component more specifically and appropriately captures data from the residents of skilled nursing facilities. Reporting methods have been created by using forms from the Patient Safety Component as a base, with modifications to specifically address the nuances of LTCF residents. The Dialysis Component offers a simplified user interface for dialysis users to streamline their data entry and analyses processes as well as provide options for expanding the in the future to include dialysis surveillance in settings other than outpatient facilities.

The Outpatient Procedure Component will be developed to gather data on the impact of infections and other outcomes related to outpatient procedures that are performed in settings such as Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs), Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs), and physicians’ offices. Three event types will be monitored in this new component: Same Day Outcome Measures, Prophylactic Intravenous (IV) Antibiotic Timing, and Surgical Site Infections (SSI). The development of this component has been previously delayed to obtain additional user feedback and support from outside partners. This component is on track to be released in NHSN in 2016/2017.

Since its launch, NHSN increasingly has served as the operational system for compliance with mandatory HAI reporting requirements established by states. As of March, 2015, 33 states and the District of Columbia have opted to use NHSN as the operational system for mandatory reporting by healthcare facilities in their jurisdictions, and additional states are expected to follow with similar use of NHSN for mandatory reporting purposes. In addition, CMS requires Medicare-eligible acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term acute care facilities, oncology hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, dialysis facilities, and ambulatory surgery centers to report HAI data and healthcare personnel influenza vaccination summary data to CMS via NHSN as part of CMS quality improvement and reporting programs. Still, many healthcare facilities, even in states with mandatory reporting requirements, submit at least some HAI data to NHSN voluntarily.

OMB most recently approved this request on 12/01/2014 for 4,277,716 burden hours. Approval of this revision request would result in a net increase of 343,826 burden hours. This collection of information is authorized by the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242b, 242k, and 242m(d)) (Attachment A).

The previously-approved NHSN OMB revision in December 2014 included 54 individual data collection forms; the current revision request includes revision of 27 of the previously approved forms and the removal of two data collection forms, for a total of 52 proposed data collection forms (Attachment C). A detailed explanation of the proposed program changes are provided in Attachment D-1. An itemized list of changes proposed to each data collection form and their justifications are provided in Attachment D-2.

In summary, the proposed revisions to the information collection tools in NHSN include the following program changes:

1. There are multiple updates and clarifications made to 27 of the approved data collection tools resulting in both increases and decreases to burden estimates.
2. Changes were made to seven facility surveys. Based on user feedback and internal reviews of the annual facility surveys it was determined that questions and response options be amended, removed, or added to fit the evolving uses of the annual facility surveys. The surveys are being increasingly used to help intelligently interpret the other data elements reported into NHSN. Currently the surveys are used to appropriately risk adjust the numerator and denominator data entered into NHSN while also guiding DHQP decisions on future division priorities for prevention.
3. Carbapenemase testing questions were added to the MDRO LabID Event form. The questions will ask facilities whether the bacterial isolate was tested; if so, using which tests. Additionally if the isolate was tested for carbapenemase, whether the isolate tested positive, and if so using which tests. These questions were added to the form to ascertain whether facilities are adhering to new CRE reporting rules by collecting additional information in relation to CRE laboratory tests methods.
4. Two dialysis forms will begin collecting information on dialyzer reuse. Dialyzer reuse has been identified as important risk factor for infection. By including this field on both numerator and denominator forms, it will be possible to calculate a dialyzer reuse rate. The dialyzer reuse rate can then be included in NHSN analyses to determine the effect of dialyzer reuse on patient outcomes.
5. A total of two forms will be removed from the PRA package as those forms will no longer be implemented within NHSN. The removed forms are: 57.154 Antimicrobial Use & Resistance Component - Monthly Reporting Plan and 57.600 State Health Department Validation Record.

**2. Purpose and Use of Information Collection**

 The data collected under OMB Control No. 0920-0666 are used for:

* Estimation of the magnitude of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)
* Monitoring of HAI trends
* Facilitation of interfacility and intrafacility comparisons with risk-adjusted data that can be used for local quality improvement activities
* Assistance to facilities in developing surveillance and analysis methods that permit timely recognition of patient safety problems and prompt intervention with appropriate measures.
* Comply with legal requirements – including but not limited to state or federal laws, regulations, or other requirements – for mandatory reporting of healthcare facility-specific adverse event, prevention practice adherence, and other public health data.
* Enable healthcare facilities to report HAI and prevention practice adherence data via NHSN to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in fulfillment of CMS’s quality measurement reporting requirements for those data.
* Provide state departments of health with information that identifies the healthcare facilities in their state that participate in NHSN.
* Provide to state agencies, at their request, facility-specific, NHSN patient safety component and healthcare personnel safety component adverse event and prevention practice adherence data for surveillance, prevention, or mandatory public reporting.

 NHSN is used to determine the magnitude of various healthcare-associated adverse events and trends in the rates of these events among patients and healthcare personnel with similar risks or exposures. The healthcare institutions participating in NHSN are required to collect data in an ongoing manner and report them monthly, seasonally, or yearly to CDC based on the specific data element being reported. The NHSN provides facilities with risk-adjusted data that can be used for inter-facility comparisons and local quality improvement activities. CDC also assists facilities in developing surveillance and analysis methods that permit timely recognition of patient and healthcare personnel safety problems and prompt intervention with appropriate measures. Finally, facilities can conduct collaborative research with NHSN member facilities. For example, facilities can describe the epidemiology of emerging HAIs and pathogens, assess the importance of potential risk factors, further characterize HAI pathogens and their mechanism of resistance, and evaluate alternative surveillance and prevention strategies. In aggregate, CDC analyzes and publishes surveillance data yearly to estimate and characterize the national burden of healthcare-associated infections. These publications can be accessed here: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/dataStat.html>.

 NHSN is also increasingly being used to satisfy state-mandated HAI reporting requirements. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have implemented HAI reporting requirements using NHSN as the reporting mechanism and more are expected in the coming years. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) now requires Medicare-eligible acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, inpatient psychiatric facilities, long-term acute care hospitals, dialysis facilities, oncology hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers to report HAI and healthcare personnel influenza vaccination data to CMS via NHSN.

Further, CDC DHQP is actively engaged with CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) in working to reduce healthcare associated infections and improve the quality of care within US healthcare facilities. Suggested revisions and enhancements for NHSN definitions and surveillance criteria are received from and vetted with NHSN users, as well as with external partners such as CMS CCSQ, the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), as they are evaluated and developed by the internal CDC NHSN subject matter experts. Prior to CMS CCSQ adopting a new NHSN measure for requirement in a CMS Quality Reporting Program (QRP), they often require that the measure be endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) therefore resulting in updates and improvements to the NHSN forms as CDC strives to obtain the highest standard for measuring infection surveillance and process improvement. Further, changes to the number of respondents and responses per respondent for the NHSN forms are directly related to the expansion of CMS QRPs. The CMS QRP finalized rules and a list of the NHSN forms used for the CMS QRPs and State mandated reporting can be found in Attachment E.

**3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction**

As stated in previous submissions to OMB, 100% of the data for the NHSN are collected via a secure Internet application. Only the minimum amount of information necessary for the data collection is being requested. Institutions that participate in NHSN are required to have a computer and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and they must provide the salaries of the data collectors and data entry personnel. These expenses would not exceed what is normally expended for a typical healthcare facility infection surveillance program. While the paper forms are provided for data collection, facilities are not required to use them for entry of data into NHSN.

Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) is a Health Level 7 (HL7) standard which provides a framework for formats of electronic documents. Currently, NHSN is able to accept data for the following event types/summary data via CDA:

* Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)
* Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
* Central line insertion practices (CLIP)
* Surgical site infections (SSI)
* Laboratory-identified (LabID) events
* Dialysis events
* Antimicrobial use (AU)
* Antimicrobial resistance (AR)
* Surgical procedures
* Intensive Care Units (ICU)/Other Locations (not NICU and SCA)
* Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU)
* Specialty Care Areas (SCA)
* MDRO and CDI Prevention Process and Outcome Monthly Measures

**4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information**

NHSN is the only current national system that collects surveillance data on healthcare-associated infections, infection prevention process measure data, data on healthcare personnel safety measures such as blood and body fluid exposures and vaccination practices, and adverse events related to the transfusion of blood and blood products.

There are other organizations within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (e.g., Patient Safety Task Force, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) that work to improve patient safety and healthcare outcomes. In many cases, these agencies use the information generated from the NHSN to support their mission, and currently, the data collections do not overlap.

**5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities**

 There are several vendors, some of which may be considered small businesses, which sell data management tools with similar capabilities as NHSN. However, since NHSN is a voluntary system, facilities are free to choose a vendor product over the NHSN. The exception is in those states that have mandated the use of NHSN for meeting their public reporting laws and in facilities that participate in the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, the CMS Prospective Payment System (PPS) End-stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program, CMS Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program, CMS Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program, CMS Long Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting Program (LTCHQR), the CMS PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program, and the CMS Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program.

 However, in order to minimize any negative impact on vendors (i.e., loss of potential market share); CDC actively assists all vendors with facility data submission into NHSN.

**6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently**

 Many adverse events associated with healthcare, such as HAIs, occur in both endemic and epidemic patterns. It is in the best interest of the healthcare institution to conduct routine prospective surveillance in an ongoing manner to identify trends in endemic rates as well as outbreaks so that potential problems may be identified in a timely manner and appropriate measures instituted to minimize the number of affected patients or healthcare personnel. Collecting the data sporadically or less often than required by NHSN could potentially place patients at risk. In addition, CMS and state mandates require monthly reporting of HAI data via NHSN.

**7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5**

The healthcare institutions participating in NHSN are required to collect data in an ongoing manner and report them monthly to CDC. Such a schedule will not cause undue burden in most facilities, since data are usually collected daily or at least several times per week, and denominator data are tallied monthly. The data are usually entered into the computer at least monthly for a facility’s analysis. Given these practices, it is advantageous to CDC to maintain a monthly reporting frequency. In NHSN, once the data are entered into the Internet-based application, they are transmitted electronically to CDC with no additional data preparation.

As of June 2015, there are over 15,400 healthcare facilities enrolled in NHSN. Of these, there are over 4,700 acute care facilities, 6,200 dialysis facilities, 525 long-term acute care facilities, 295 inpatient rehabilitation facilities, 90 inpatient psychiatric facilities, 225 long-term care facilities, and 3,300 ambulatory surgery facilities. The majority of these facilities are participating in CMS reporting programs for specific infection types. In 2011, the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program began for all acute care facilities with intensive care units. Therefore, while not all US acute care facilities have intensive care units, the NHSN data for central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) from intensive care units are considered to be generalizable to all acute care facilities with intensive care units. Further, in 2013, the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program expanded its requirements to include reporting of facility-wide inpatient (FacWideIN) Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) blood specimen (Bacteremia) laboratory-identified (LabID) event data, facility-wide Inpatient (FacWideIN) Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) laboratory-identified (LabID) event data, and healthcare personnel (HCP) Influenza vaccination data. As very few acute care facilities opt out of these additional CMS reporting requirements, these data are considered to be generalizable to all US acute care facilities.

In 2012, CMS ESRD Quality Incentive Program was implemented for all dialysis facilities, therefore dialysis event data are considered to be generalizable to all outpatient dialysis facilities. Furthermore, CLABSI and CAUTI data from long-term acute care facilities, and CAUTI data from inpatient rehabilitation facilities is considered generalizable to those facility and infection types as CMS reporting programs for those facility types went into effect in October 2012.

Further, because NHSN membership is now open to any healthcare facility and is increasingly being used to satisfy mandated reporting requirements at both the federal and state levels, we expect that over time the results will be more representative of all healthcare facility and infection types.

**8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency**

**A.** A 60-Day Federal Register Notice was published in the *Federal Register* on 06/30/2015, Vol. 80, No.125, pg. 37265 (Attachment B). No public comments were received.

**B.** The Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) provides advice and guidance to the CDC Director and the Director of NCEZID regarding strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of adverse events associated with healthcare in the United States. Committee members represent experts in the field of infection control. They are kept abreast of NHSN methodologies and results and proposed studies related to the NHSN. The committee has the authority to make recommendations on the conduct of the surveillance systems and studies by DHQP.

Further, participating NHSN facilities are invited to make suggestions on how NHSN can help them more effectively use their own and national surveillance data. Many of the surveillance personnel in participating institutions are experts in the field of preventing adverse events such as hospital-associated infections and have extensive experience in the field. CDC personnel are available on a priority basis by e-mail to NHSN users. Member meetings for NHSN users are held each year in conjunction with annual professional meetings such as the International Conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and the International Conference on Healthcare-Associated Infections.

In addition, DHQP actively interfaces with CMS and AHRQ as well as state health departments to ensure adequate but minimal data collection as well as effective data sharing mechanisms to meet the purposes and surveillance needs of each agency using NHSN to operationalize HAI reporting mandates.

**9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents**

No monetary incentive is provided to NHSN participants.

**10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents**

This submission has been reviewed by NCEZID who determined that the Privacy Act does not apply. The CDC Office of General Counsel (OGC) has also determined that the Privacy Act does not apply to this data collection. The CDC OGC believes that NHSN, as it is currently being utilized by CDC, is not a Privacy Act system of records and provides case law to support this determination (Henke v. U.S. Department of Commerce and Fisher v. NIH). Specifically, the OGC stated that "The CDC NHSN system is similar to the computerized information in both the Henke and Fisher cases. While CDC has the capability to retrieve data by personal identifier, CDC does not, as a matter of practice or policy, retrieve data in this way. Specifically, the primary practice and policy of CDC regarding NHSN data is to retrieve data by the name of the hospital or other non-personal identifier, not an individual patient, for surveillance and public health purposes. Furthermore, patient identifiers are not necessary for NHSN to operate, and CDC does not regularly or even frequently use patient names to obtain information about these individuals."

An Assurance of Confidentiality is granted for all data collected under NHSN. Accordingly, “the voluntarily provided information obtained in this surveillance system that would permit identification of any individual or institution is collected with a guarantee that it will be held in strict confidence, will be used only for the purposes stated, and will not otherwise be disclosed or released without the consent of the individual, or the institution in accordance with Sections 304, 306 and 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242b, 242k, and 242m(d)).” (Attachment H) The NHSN Assurance of Confidentiality expires September 30, 2015. DHQP leadership is currently completing the renewal process which is expected to be completed in late August/early September 2015.

The use of the NHSN is both voluntary and mandated. State legislatures have mandated the use of the NHSN for public reporting of healthcare-acquired infections by healthcare facilities in their state.

While the Privacy Act is not applicable, in accordance with the stringent safeguarding that must be in place for 308(d) assurance of confidentiality protected projects, all the safeguarding measures described in previous Section A.10 are still in effect. These include: use of a password issued via CDC’s Secure Access Management System for access to the application; data encryption using Secure Socket Layer technology; and lastly, storage of data in password protected files on secure computers in locked, authorized-access-only rooms.

This data collection effort is consistent with the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which expressly permits disclosures without individual authorization to public health authorities authorized by law to collect or receive the information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to public health surveillance, investigation, and intervention.

IRB Approval

For the participating healthcare institutions, data are collected in this system for the purposes of local surveillance and program evaluation. DHQP aggregates the data for national surveillance and public health practice evaluation purposes. No primary research will be conducted as part of this data collection effort and no patient consent forms will be used. Although this is not a research project, this Protocol was submitted for ethical review to the CDC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and was approved (Protocol #4062, exp. 05/18/05.) The most recent request for amendment and continuation was approved on 08/29/06 and expired on 05/18/07. Subsequently, in consultation with NCEZID senior staff, the program was advised that the activities of the NHSN are surveillance and evaluation of public health practice and that IRB review is no longer required, therefore the protocol has been closed (Attachment F).

**10.1 Privacy Impact Assessment Information**

The surveillance data are typically obtained by designated and trained staff, primarily registered nurses in infection control or occupational health or transfusion medicine laboratory personnel who routinely access administrative and clinical services reports and medical records, make observations during ward and patient rounds, and verbally discuss patients’ conditions with direct caregivers. Persons with training in other healthcare disciplines such as medical technology and microbiology also perform surveillance. Information on antibiotic resistance of clinical isolates and antimicrobial use is reported from the clinical laboratory and pharmacy, respectively. In most institutions, the data are recorded on hard-copy data collection forms and later entered into the NHSN web interface. However, roughly 17.4% of acute care facilities submit data electronically directly from a vendor system using Clinical Document Architecture (CDA).

Items of information to be collected include surveillance data related to various healthcare-associated adverse events and trends. Examples of these items are medical information and notes, medical records numbers, date of birth, gender, and biological specimen information. Personal identifying information is collected for one of two purposes. The information is used to either a) enumerate a specific event and minimize duplication (e.g., medical record number) and b) analyze risk factors related to the event data being collected (e.g., date of birth and gender). Data are reported to CDC and CDC aggregates the data for national surveillance and public health practice evaluation purposes.

While the Privacy Act is not applicable, in accordance with the stringent safeguarding that must be in place for 308(d) assurance of confidentiality protected projects, all the safeguarding measures described in previous Section A.10 are still in effect. These include: use of a password issued via CDC’s Secure Access Management System for access to the application; data encryption using Secure Socket Layer technology; and lastly, storage of data in password protected files on secure computers in locked, authorized-access-only rooms.

This data collection effort is consistent with the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which expressly permits disclosures without individual authorization to public health authorities authorized by law to collect or receive the information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to public health surveillance, investigation, and intervention.

**11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**

The reporting of adverse events associated with healthcare can be sensitive unless the institution is assured that the data aggregating organization will provide security for the data and maintain the institution’s confidentiality. As discussed in item A.10 above, NHSN is authorized to assure confidentiality to its participating individuals and institutions for voluntarily submitted data.

**12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs**

The tables below provide the burden hour and cost estimates for the proposed NHSN data collection tools. Incorporating all proposed revisions, the estimated burden for reporting reflects an increase of 343,826 hours and $13,031,897 from the most recently-approved ICR in December, 2014. Detailed revisions of the previous burden tables are available in Attachments D-3 and D-4.

**A. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours**

Burden estimates were derived using the estimated number of facilities participating in NHSN for each facility type and form. State and Federal HAI reporting mandates were taken into account when estimating the number of facilities (respondents) and the annual number of responses per facility. Subject matter expert and user feedback was used to determine the time burden of completing each data collection form. NHSN has integrated legacy OMB-approved patient and healthcare personnel safety surveillance systems, National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance (NNIS) system, the National Surveillance System for Healthcare Workers (NaSH), and the Dialysis Surveillance Network (DSN), which served as successful pilot tests of the NHSN surveillance methods.

**Estimated annual burdena**

| **Type of Respondent** | **Form Number & Name** | **No. of Respondents**  | **No. of Responses per Respondent**  | **Avg. Burden per Response (Hours)** | **Total Burden (Hours)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.100 NHSN Registration Form | 2,000 | 1 | 5/60 | 167 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.101 Facility Contact Information | 2,000 | 1 | 10/60 | 333 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.103 Patient Safety Component--Annual Hospital Survey | 5,000 | 1 | 50/60 | 4,167 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.105 Group Contact Information | 1,000 | 1 | 5/60 | 83 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.106 Patient Safety Monthly Reporting Plan | 6,000 | 12 | 15/60 | 18,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.108 Primary Bloodstream Infection (BSI) | 6,000 | 44 | 30/60 | 132,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.111 Pneumonia (PNEU) | 6,000 | 72 | 30/60 | 216,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.112 Ventilator-Associated Event | 6,000 | 144 | 25/60 | 360,000 |
| Infection Preventionist | 57.114 Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) | 6,000 | 40 | 20/60 | 80,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.116 Denominators for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) | 6,000 | 9 | 3 | 162,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.117 Denominators for Specialty Care Area (SCA)/Oncology (ONC) | 6,000 | 9 | 5 | 270,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.118 Denominators for Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/Other locations (not NICU or SCA) | 6,000 | 60 | 5 | 1,800,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.120 Surgical Site Infection (SSI) | 6,000 | 36 | 35/60 | 126,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.121 Denominator for Procedure | 6,000 | 540 | 5/60 | 270,000 |
| Laboratory Technician | 57.123 Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR)-Microbiology Data Electronic Upload Specification Tables | 6,000 | 12 | 5/60 | 6,000 |
| Pharmacy Technician | 57.124 Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR)-Pharmacy Data Electronic Upload Specification Tables | 6,000 | 12 | 5/60 | 6,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.125 Central Line Insertion Practices Adherence Monitoring | 1,000 | 100 | 25/60 | 41,667 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.126 MDRO or CDI Infection Form | 6,000 | 72 | 30/60 | 216,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.127 MDRO and CDI Prevention Process and Outcome Measures Monthly Monitoring  | 6,000 | 24 | 15/60 | 36,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.128 Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event | 6,000 | 240 | 20/60 | 480,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.137 Long-Term Care Facility Component – Annual Facility Survey | 250 | 1 | 1 | 250 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.138 Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event for LTCF | 250 | 8 | 15/60 | 500 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.139 MDRO and CDI Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for LTCF | 250 | 12 | 5/60 | 250 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.140 Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) for LTCF | 250 | 9 | 30/60 | 1,125 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.141 Monthly Reporting Plan for LTCF | 250 | 12 | 5/60 | 250 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.142 Denominators for LTCF Locations | 250 | 12 | 3.25 | 9,750 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.143 Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for LTCF | 250 | 12 | 5/60 | 250 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.150 LTAC Annual Survey | 400 | 1 | 50/60 | 333 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.151 Rehab Annual Survey | 1,000 | 1 | 50/60 | 833 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.200 Healthcare Personnel Safety Component Annual Facility Survey | 50 | 1 | 8 | 400 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.203 Healthcare Personnel Safety Monthly Reporting Plan | 17,000 | 1 | 5/60 | 1,417 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.204 Healthcare Worker Demographic Data | 50 | 200 | 20/60 | 3,333 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.205 Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids | 50 | 50 | 1 | 2,500 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.206 Healthcare Worker Prophylaxis/Treatment | 50 | 30 | 15/60 | 375 |
| Laboratory Technician | 57.207 Follow-Up Laboratory Testing | 50 | 50 | 15/60 | 625 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.210 Healthcare Worker Prophylaxis/Treatment-Influenza | 50 | 50 | 10/60 | 417 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.300 Hemovigilance Module Annual Survey | 500 | 1 | 2 | 1,000 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.301 Hemovigilance Module Monthly Reporting Plan | 500 | 12 | 1/60 | 100 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.303 Hemovigilance Module Monthly Reporting Denominators | 500 | 12 | 1 | 6,000 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.304 Hemovigilance Adverse Reaction | 500 | 48 | 15/60 | 6,000 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.305 Hemovigilance Incident | 500 | 10 | 10/60 | 833 |
| Staff RN | 57.400 Patient Safety Component—Annual Facility Survey for Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) | 5,000 | 1 | 5/60 | 417 |
| Staff RN | 57.401 Outpatient Procedure Component - Monthly Reporting Plan | 5,000 | 12 | 15/60 | 15,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.402 Outpatient Procedure Component Event  | 5,000 | 25 | 40/60 | 83,333 |
| Staff RN | 57.403 Outpatient Procedure Component - Monthly Denominators and Summary | 5,000 | 12 | 40/60 | 40,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.500 Outpatient Dialysis Center Practices Survey | 6,500 | 1 | 2.0 | 13,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.501 Dialysis Monthly Reporting Plan | 6,500 | 12 | 5/60 | 6,500 |
| Staff RN | 57.502 Dialysis Event | 6,500 | 60 | 25/60 | 162,500 |
| Staff RN | 57.503 Denominator for Outpatient Dialysis | 6,500 | 12 | 10/60 | 13,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.504 Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for Dialysis | 1,500 | 12 | 1.25 | 22,500 |
| Staff RN | 57.505 Dialysis Patient Influenza Vaccination | 325 | 75 | 10/60 | 4,063 |
| Staff RN | 57.506 Dialysis Patient Influenza Vaccination Denominator | 325 | 5 | 10/60 | 271 |
|  |  | **Total Estimated Annual Burden (Hours)** | **4,621,542** |

a Columns may not total due to rounding.

**B. Estimates of Annualized Costs**

The average salary of the professional discipline that is expected to perform surveillance has been used in the calculations of burden and is based on data from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor & Statistics, 2014. Those most likely to complete this surveillance are health practitioners at a mid (50th percentile average wage) or senior (75th percentile average wage) level. Those personnel and their estimated hourly wages are shown below.

|  |
| --- |
| **2013 Department Of Labor Salary Estimates** |
| **Professional Labor Category** | **Percentile** | **Hourly Wage** |
| Infection Preventionist RN | 75th | $38.98 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 75th | $34.27 |
| Occupational Health Nurse (Occ Health RN) | 50th | $33.27 |
| Pharmacy Technician  | 50th | $14.33 |
| Staff RN | 50th | $32.04 |
| Laboratory Technician | 50th | $18.45 |
| http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm#National |
| Accessed: 5/25/2015 |  |  |

**Estimated annualized burden costa**

| **Type of Respondents** | **Form Number & Name** | **Total Burden (Hours)** | **Hourly Wage Rate** | **Total Respondent Costs** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.100 NHSN Registration Form | 167 | $38.98 | $6,497 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.101 Facility Contact Information | 333 | $38.98 | $12,993 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.103 Patient Safety Component--Annual Hospital Survey | 4,167 | $38.98 | $162,417 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.105 Group Contact Information | 83 | $38.98 | $3,248 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.106 Patient Safety Monthly Reporting Plan | 18,000 | $38.98 | $701,640 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.108 Primary Bloodstream Infection (BSI) | 132,000 | $38.98 | $5,145,360 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.111 Pneumonia (PNEU) | 216,000 | $38.98 | $8,419,680 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.112 Ventilator-Associated Event | 360,000 | $38.98 | $14,032,800 |
| Infection Preventionist | 57.114 Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) | 80,000 | $38.98 | $3,118,400 |
| Staff RN | 57.116 Denominators for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) | 162,000 | $32.04 | $5,190,480 |
| Staff RN | 57.117 Denominators for Specialty Care Area (SCA)/Oncology (ONC) | 270,000 | $32.04 | $8,650,800 |
| Staff RN | 57.118 Denominators for Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/Other locations (not NICU or SCA) | 1,800,000 | $32.04 | $57,672,000 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.120 Surgical Site Infection (SSI) | 126,000 | $38.98 | $4,911,480 |
| Staff RN | 57.121 Denominator for Procedure | 270,000 | $32.04 | $8,650,800 |
| Laboratory Technician | 57.123 Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR)-Microbiology Data Electronic Upload Specification Tables | 6,000 | $18.45 | $110,700 |
| Pharmacy Technician | 57.124 Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR)-Pharmacy Data Electronic Upload Specification Tables | 6,000 | $14.33 | $85,980 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.125 Central Line Insertion Practices Adherence Monitoring | 41,667 | $38.98 | $1,624,167 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.126 MDRO or CDI Infection Form | 216,000 | $38.98 | $8,419,680 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.127 MDRO and CDI Prevention Process and Outcome Measures Monthly Monitoring  | 36,000 | $38.98 | $1,403,280 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.128 Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event | 480,000 | $38.98 | $18,710,400 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.137 Long-Term Care Facility Component – Annual Facility Survey | 250 | $38.98 | $9,745 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.138 Laboratory-identified MDRO or CDI Event for LTCF | 500 | $38.98 | $19,490 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.139 MDRO and CDI Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for LTCF | 250 | $38.98 | $9,745 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.140 Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) for LTCF | 1,125 | $38.98 | $43,853 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.141 Monthly Reporting Plan for LTCF | 250 | $38.98 | $9,745 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.142 Denominators for LTCF Locations | 9,750 | $38.98 | $380,055 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.143 Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for LTCF | 250 | $38.98 | $9,745 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.150 LTAC Annual Survey | 333 | $38.98 | $12,993 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.151 Rehab Annual Survey | 833 | $38.98 | $32,483 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.200 Healthcare Personnel Safety Component Annual Facility Survey | 400 | $33.27 | $13,308 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.203 Healthcare Personnel Safety Monthly Reporting Plan | 1,417 | $33.27 | $47,133 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.204 Healthcare Worker Demographic Data | 3,333 | $33.27 | $110,900 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.205 Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids | 2,500 | $33.27 | $83,175 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.206 Healthcare Worker Prophylaxis/Treatment | 375 | $33.27 | $12,476 |
| Laboratory Technician | 57.207 Follow-Up Laboratory Testing | 625 | $18.45 | $11,531 |
| Occupational Health RN/Specialist | 57.210 Healthcare Worker Prophylaxis/Treatment-Influenza | 417 | $33.27 | $13,863 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.300 Hemovigilance Module Annual Survey | 1,000 | $34.27 | $34,270 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.301 Hemovigilance Module Monthly Reporting Plan | 100 | $34.27 | $3,427 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.303 Hemovigilance Module Monthly Reporting Denominators | 6,000 | $34.27 | $205,620 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.304 Hemovigilance Adverse Reaction | 6,000 | $34.27 | $205,620 |
| Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologist | 57.305 Hemovigilance Incident | 833 | $34.27 | $28,558 |
| Staff RN | 57.400 Patient Safety Component—Annual Facility Survey for Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) | 417 | $32.04 | $13,350 |
| Staff RN | 57.401 Outpatient Procedure Component - Monthly Reporting Plan | 15,000 | $32.04 | $480,600 |
| Staff RN | 57.402 Outpatient Procedure Component Event  | 83,333 | $32.04 | $2,670,000 |
| Staff RN | 57.403 Outpatient Procedure Component - Monthly Denominators and Summary | 40,000 | $32.04 | $1,281,600 |
| Registered Nurse (Infection Preventionist) | 57.500 Outpatient Dialysis Center Practices Survey | 13,000 | $38.98 | $506,740 |
| Staff RN | 57.501 Dialysis Monthly Reporting Plan | 6,500 | $32.04 | $208,260 |
| Staff RN | 57.502 Dialysis Event | 162,500 | $32.04 | $5,206,500 |
| Staff RN | 57.503 Denominator for Outpatient Dialysis | 13,000 | $32.04 | $416,520 |
| Staff RN | 57.504 Prevention Process Measures Monthly Monitoring for Dialysis | 22,500 | $32.04 | $720,900 |
| Staff RN | 57.505 Dialysis Patient Influenza Vaccination | 4,063 | $32.04 | $130,163 |
| Staff RN | 57.506 Dialysis Patient Influenza Vaccination Denominator | 271 | $32.04 | $8,678 |
|  |  | **Total Estimated Cost** | **$159,973,848** |

a Columns and rows may not total due to rounding.

**13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Record Keepers**

 There is no change in the estimates of annual cost burden to respondents. Capital and start-up cost: Healthcare institutions participating in the NHSN are responsible for choosing the specific computer brand and model to purchase. Minimum system requirements are as follows: 3 GHz processor – Intel Pentium IV or AMD K6/Athlon/Duron family, or compatible processor, 512 MB of RAM, sound card, speakers or headphones, CD-ROM or DVD drive, hard disk minimum 40 GB; Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 or higher, 17” Super VGA (800 X 600) or higher resolution video adaptor and monitor, Windows XP, Windows 2000, Windows Vista, or Windows 7 Operating system, laser printer, and high-speed Internet access >200 Kbs (e.g., T1, cable, DSL or ADSL); e-mail account. It is expected that most institutions will have met or exceeded these recommendations for other business purposes. Recurring costs: Healthcare facilities participating in NHSN must have access to high-speed Internet, which most have for other business purposes. No other recurring costs are anticipated.

**14. Annualized Cost to the Government**

A total of 81 FTE/contractor personnel are actively involved in the enhancement and maintenance of the NHSN. The estimated cost to the government of this OMB revision of NHSN is based on expenses incurred in the following categories: personnel and programming contracts. The items and their costs relevant to the proposed modifications to NHSN are shown in the table below. The total cost to the government in 2016 is estimated to be $12,842,487.

**NHSN Estimated Annual Cost to the Government**

| **Expense Item** | **Description** | **Estimated Annual Cost** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Personnel | The personnel categories and their FTE contributions are as follows: | FTE annual compensation in FY 2016 will be $2,644,148 |
|  | Supervisory. Medical OfficerMedical EpidemiologistStatisticianEpidemiologistNurse EpidemiologistSystems AnalystPublic Health AnalystComputer Scientist | 13342213 |  |
| Programming contracts | Design, develop, and deploy enhancements to NHSN | $10,198,339 |
| **Total** |  | **$12,842,487** |

**15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

Twenty-seven data collection tools previously approved under OMB No. 0920-0666 have been revised in this revision request. In addition, two forms are being removed from this package. A brief summary of the proposed program changes is provided below. An extensive explanation of the proposed program changes are provided in Attachment D-1. An itemized list of changes proposed to each data collection form and their justifications are provided in Attachment D-2. For additional information, surveillance protocols and completion instructions for each data collection tool can be found in Attachment G.

In summary, the proposed revisions to the information collection tools in NHSN include the following program changes:

1. There are multiple updates and clarifications made to 27 of the approved data collection tools resulting in both increases and decreases to burden estimates.
2. Changes were made to seven facility surveys. Based on user feedback and internal reviews of the annual facility surveys it was determined that questions and response options be amended, removed, or added to fit the evolving uses of the annual facility surveys. The surveys are being increasingly used to help intelligently interpret the other data elements reported into NHSN. Currently the surveys are used to appropriately risk adjust the numerator and denominator data entered into NHSN while also guiding DHQP decisions on future division priorities for prevention.
3. Carbapenemase testing questions were added to the MDRO LabID Event form. The questions will ask facilities whether the bacterial isolate was tested; if so, using which tests. Additionally if the isolate was tested for carbapenemase, whether the isolate tested positive, and if so using which tests. These questions were added to the form to ascertain whether facilities are adhering to new CRE reporting rules by collecting additional information in relation to CRE laboratory tests methods.
4. Two dialysis forms will begin collecting information on dialyzer reuse. Dialyzer reuse has been identified as important risk factor for infection. By including this field on both numerator and denominator forms, it will be possible to calculate a dialyzer reuse rate. The dialyzer reuse rate can then be included in NHSN analyses to determine the effect of dialyzer reuse on patient outcomes.
5. A total of two forms will be removed from the PRA package as those forms will no longer be implemented within NHSN. The removed forms are: 57.154 Antimicrobial Use & Resistance Component - Monthly Reporting Plan and 57.600 State Health Department Validation Record.

**16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule**

 NHSN is an ongoing data collection system and as such, does not have an annual timeline. The data are reported on a continuous basis by participating institutions and aggregated by CDC into a national database that is analyzed for two main purposes: to describe the epidemiology of healthcare-associated adverse events, and to provide comparative data for populations with similar risks. Comparative data can be used by participating and also by non-participating healthcare institutions that collect their data using NHSN methodology.

The reporting institutions will be able to access their own data at any time and analyze them through the internet interface. Reports containing aggregated data will be produced annually and posted on the NHSN website, which is <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn>. The report is also published annually in a scientific journal to make NHSN data widely available. Other in-depth analysis of data from the NHSN will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at scientific and professional meetings. The proposed modifications to NHSN will not alter theplans for tabulation, publication, nor the time schedule.

**17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

The display of the OMB expiration date is not inappropriate.

**18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

 There are no exceptions to the certification.