

Clostridioides Difficile Infection

In support of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program inpatient data validation efforts for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2029 program year:

- Each hospital selected for CDI validation is to produce a list of all final results for stool specimens that are toxin positive for CDI during an inpatient episode of care.

The list may include specimens collected in the ED and/or 24-hour observation locations collected prior to an inpatient admission; however, **if the patient was only seen in the ED and/or 24-hour observation and never admitted as an inpatient status, do not include these on the Validation Template.** These are scenarios where CMS and the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) reporting differ.

- The line list should include stool specimens that are toxin positive for CDI from unformed stools only.

Exclusions include: C-diff antigen positive, antigen only detected, no toxin detected

[FY 2029 - CDI Validation Template](#)

[\(Use this template for 1Q 2026 through 4Q 2026 stool specimens toxin positive for CDI - all quarters must be submitted on separate templates\)](#)

FIELD (* indicates required field)	DESCRIPTION	SECTION
NHSN Facility ID*	The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)-assigned facility ID under which your hospital submits NHSN data.	Hospital Information Section Complete the first row in the spreadsheet. The information provided in the first row will be applied to all toxin positive stool specimens listed on the template.
Provider ID/CCN*	Hospital's 6-digit CMS Certification Number (CCN). Do not include any hyphens.	
Hospital Name*	Hospital Name associated with CCN.	
State*	Enter the 2 character abbreviation for the state in which the hospital is located.	
Calendar Quarter*	Select from the drop-down list the calendar quarter to which the CDI Validation Template pertains.	
Hospital Contact Name*	Hospital contact name for CMS to contact with questions.	
Contact Phone*	Phone number for hospital contact listed.	
Contact Email*	Email address for hospital contact listed.	
Assay Type*	The type of test used to detect CDI.	Patient & Stool Specimen Section Complete for every final specimen toxin positive for CDI.
Stool Specimens Toxin Positive for C. difficile (Y/N)*	Select Yes or No from the drop-down list. Does the hospital have any final stool cultures toxin positive for CDI for patients in the calendar quarter referenced?	
Patient Identifier*	The patient identifier assigned by the hospital. Use the same patient identifier that would be submitted to NHSN if the episode of care (EOC) would be reported as a laboratory-identified CDI event.	
Birthdate*	The patient date of birth using MM/DD/YYYY format.	
Sex*	Select Female or Male from the drop-down list to indicate the sex of patient. This field will not be validated.	
Admit Date*	Enter date of patient's inpatient admission to hospital in MM/DD/YYYY format. Date of admission = date that the patient is physically admitted to an inpatient location. Time spent in the Emergency Department or other outpatient locations before admission are NOT used to set the Date of Admission. See table below for additional information.	
Discharge Date*	Enter date patient was discharged from the hospital in MM/DD/YYYY format. If a patient has not been discharged from the hospital enter " Not Discharged " for the Discharge Date field. Discharge dates that fall within the reporting quarter will be eligible for validation.	
First Name	First name of patient.	
Last Name	Last name of patient.	
NHSN Location*	Select from the drop-down list, the NHSN location to which the patient was assigned when the stool specimen was collected. Only locations from the drop-down will be accepted; do not use a hospital-assigned location.	
Lab ID*	Lab ID, accession number or specimen number corresponding to toxin positive for CDI stool specimen.	
Stool Specimen Collection Date*	Provide the date the stool specimen was collected in MM/DD/YYYY format.	

Stool Specimen Collection Time	Provide the time the stool specimen was collected if easily available.	
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For additional information, view the appropriate CDI Abstraction Manual posted on the Inpatient Data Validation Resources page of QualityNet (direct link): <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/data-management/data-validation/resources>

For the purposes of CMS inpatient data validation, please note the differences between NHSN data submission and validation template/medical record submission, as described below:

Record Type	NHSN Data Submission	Validation Template Submission	Medical Record Submission to CDAC
Inpatient	Submit data per NHSN instruction.	Enter all positive cultures on Validation Templates, including those performed in ED and/or Observation locations <i>if and only if</i> there was a corresponding inpatient status.	Submit inpatient records, including corresponding ED and/or Observation documentation. There must be documentation in the record to indicate inpatient status.
ED and/or Observation only – did not convert to inpatient status; includes patients with Observation status in an inpatient location.	Submit data per NHSN instruction, regardless of whether the patient changed to inpatient status, and mark the inpatient status accordingly.	Do NOT enter positive cultures for patients that did not convert to inpatient status. The patient must change to an inpatient status to be valid for the CMS data validation. Cultures submitted on the Validation Template that are not inpatient admissions may result in mismatch.	The patient must change to an inpatient status to be valid for CMS data validation. Records submitted for validation that are not inpatient admissions will be considered invalid .
CMS Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF) and CMS Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPF)	Submit data per NHSN instruction.	Do NOT enter positive cultures for patients that had only a rehabilitation or psychiatric stay. These are not valid for CMS data validation. Cultures submitted on the template that are not inpatient admissions may result in mismatch.	Rehab and psych stays are not valid for CMS data validation. Records submitted for validation that are not acute inpatient admissions will be considered invalid .

search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. ****CMS Disclosure**** Please do not send applications, claims, payments, medical records or any documents containing sensitive information to the PRA Reports Clearance Office. Please note that any correspondence not pertaining to the information collection burden approved under the associated OMB control number listed on this form will not be reviewed, forwarded, or retained.

If you have questions or concerns regarding where to submit your documents, please contact the Validation Support Contractor at validation@telligen.com.

NHSN Facility ID*	Provider ID/CCN*	Hospital Name*	State*	Calendar Quarter*	Hospital Contact Name*	Contact Phone*	Contact Email*	Assay Type*	Stool Specimens Toxin Positive for C. difficile (Y/N)*
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Patient Identifier*

Birthdate*

Sex*

Admit Date*

Discharge Date*

First Name

Last Name

NHSN Location*

Lab ID*

**Stool Specimen
Collection Date***

**Stool Specimen
Collection Time**

Below is a list of NHSN Locations applicable for CMS inpatient data validation CDI rep

CDC LOCATION LABEL	CDC LOCATION CODE
Inpatient Adult Critical Care Units	
Burn Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:B
Medical Cardiac Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:C
Medical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:M
Medical-Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:MS
Neurologic Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:N
Neurosurgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:NS
Oncology Medical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:ONC_M
Oncology Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:ONC_S
Oncology Medical-Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:ONC_MS
Onsite Overflow Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:OF_ONSITE
Prenatal Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:PNATL
Respiratory Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:R
Surgical Cardiothoracic Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:CT
Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:S
Trauma Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:T
Inpatient Pediatric Critical Care Units	
ONC Pediatric Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:ONC_PED
Pediatric Burn Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:B_PED
Pediatric Surgical Cardiothoracic Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:CT_PED
Pediatric Medical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:M_PED
Pediatric Medical-Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:MS_PED
Pediatric Neurosurgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:NS_PED
Pediatric Respiratory Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:R_PED
Pediatric Surgical Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:S_PED
Pediatric Trauma Critical Care	IN:ACUTE:CC:T_PED
Inpatient Neonatal Units	
Well Newborn-- Nursery (Level I)	IN:ACUTE:WARD:NURS
Special Care Nursery (Level II)	IN:ACUTE:STEP:NURS
Neonatal Critical Care (Level II/III)	IN:ACUTE:CC_STEP:NURS

Neonatal Critical Care (Level III)	IN:ACUTE:CC:NURS
Neonatal Critical Care (Level IV)	IN:ACUTE:CC:NURS_IV
	Inpatient Specialty Care Areas (SCA)
Dialysis Specialty Care Area	IN:ACUTE:SCA:DIAL
Pediatric Dialysis Specialty Care Area	IN:ACUTE:SCA:DIAL_PED
Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant Specialty Care Area	IN:ACUTE:SCA:SOTP_PED
Solid Organ Transplant Specialty Care Area	IN:ACUTE:SCA:SOTP
	Inpatient Adult Wards
Antenatal Care Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ANTENAT
Behavioral Health/Psych Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:BHV
Burn Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:B
Ear, Nose, Throat Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ENT
Gastrointestinal Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:GI
Genitourinary Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:GU
Gerontology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:GNT
Gynecology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:GYN
Jail Unit	IN:ACUTE:WARD:JAL
Labor and Delivery Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:LD
Labor, Delivery, Recovery, Postpartum Suite	IN:ACUTE:WARD:LD_PP
Medical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:M
Medical-Surgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:MS
Neurology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:N
Neurosurgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:NS
Oncology Leukemia Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_LEUK
Oncology Lymphoma Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_LYMPH
Oncology Leukemia/Lymphoma Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_LL
Oncology Solid Tumor Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_ST
Oncology Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_HSCT

Oncology General Hematology-Oncology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_HONC
Ophthalmology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:OPH
Orthopedic Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ORT
Orthopedic Trauma Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:T_ORT
Onsite Overflow Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:OF_ONSITE
Plastic Surgery Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:PLS
Postpartum Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:PP
Pulmonary Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:PULM
Rehabilitation Ward (within Hospital)	IN:ACUTE:WARD:REHAB
School Infirmary	IN:ACUTE:WARD:IFM
Stroke (Acute) Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:STRK
Surgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:S
Telemetry Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:TEL
Vascular Surgery Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:VS
Chemical Dependency Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:CD
Inpatient Pediatric Wards	
Adolescent Behavioral Health Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:BHV_ADOL
Oncology Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_HSCT_PED
Oncology Pediatric General Hematology/Oncology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ONC_HONC_PED
Pediatric Behavioral Health Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:BHV_PED
Pediatric Burn Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:B_PED
Pediatric Ear, Nose, Throat Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ENT_PED
Pediatric Genitourinary Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:GU_PED
Pediatric Medical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:M_PED
Pediatric Medical-Surgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:MS_PED
Pediatric Neurology Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:N_PED
Pediatric Neurosurgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:NS_PED
Pediatric Orthopedic Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:ORT_PED
Pediatric Rehabilitation Ward (within Hospital)	IN:ACUTE:WARD:REHAB_PED
Pediatric Surgical Ward	IN:ACUTE:WARD:S_PED
Inpatient Step Down Units	
Adult Step Down Unit	IN:ACUTE:STEP
Oncology Step Down Unit	IN:ACUTE:STEP:ONC
Pediatric Step-Down Unit	IN:ACUTE:STEP:PED
Inpatient Mixed Acuity Units	

Adult Mixed Acuity Unit	IN:ACUTE:MIXED:ALL_ADULT
Pediatric Mixed Acuity Unit	IN:ACUTE:MIXED:ALL_PEDS
Mixed Age Mixed Acuity Unit	IN:ACUTE:MIXED:ALL
Oncology Mixed Acuity Unit (all ages)	IN:ACUTE:MIXED:ONC
Inpatient Operating Rooms	
Cardiac Catheterization Room/Suite	IN:ACUTE:OR:CATH
Cesarean Section Room/Suite	IN:ACUTE:OR:LD
Interventional Radiology	IN:ACUTE:OR:RAD
Operating Room/Suite	IN:ACUTE:OR
Post Anesthesia Care Unit/Recovery Room	IN:ACUTE:OR_STEP
Acute Care Facilities General	
24-Hour Observation Area	OUT:ACUTE:WARD
Emergency Department	OUT:ACUTE:ED

orting.
LOCATION DESCRIPTION
Critical care area for the care of patients with significant/major burns.
Critical care area for the care of patients with serious heart problems that DO NOT require heart surgery.
Critical care area for the care of patients who are being treated for nonsurgical conditions.
Critical care area for the care of patients with medical and/or surgical conditions.
Critical care area for the care of patients with life- threatening neurologic diseases.
Critical care area for the surgical management of patients with severe neurologic diseases or those at risk for neurologic injury as a result of surgery.
Critical care area for the care of oncology patients who are being treated for nonsurgical conditions related to their malignancy.
Critical care area for the evaluation and management of oncology patients with serious illness before and/or after cancer-related surgery.
Critical care area for the care of oncology patients with medical and/or surgical conditions related to their malignancy.
Area previously used for non-patient care or an unused patient care area which has been repurposed to care for critically ill or injured patients on a temporary basis OR an ICU acuity patient care area used specifically for overflow/surge critically ill patients formally admitted to the facility.
Critical care area for the care of pregnant women with complex medical or obstetric problems requiring a high level of care to prevent the loss of the fetus and to protect the life of the mother.
Critical care area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with severe respiratory conditions.
Critical care area for the care of patients following cardiac and/or thoracic surgery.
Critical care area for the evaluation and management of patients with serious illness before and/or after surgery.
Critical care area for the care of patients who require a high level of monitoring and/or intervention following trauma or during critical illness related to trauma.
Critical care area for the care of oncology patients ≤18 years old who are being treated for surgical or nonsurgical conditions related to their malignancy.
Critical care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old with significant/major burns.
Critical care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old following cardiac and thoracic surgery.
Critical care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old who are being treated for nonsurgical conditions.
Critical care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old with medical and/or surgical conditions.
Critical care area for the surgical management of patients ≤18 years old with severe neurologic diseases or those at risk for neurologic injury as a result of surgery.
Critical care area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with severe respiratory conditions.
Critical care area for the evaluation and management of patients ≤18 years old with serious illness before and/or after surgery.
Critical care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old who require a high level of monitoring and/or intervention following trauma or during critical illness related to trauma.
Hospital area for evaluation and postnatal care of healthy newborns. May include neonatal resuscitation and stabilization of ill newborns until transfer to a facility at which specialty neonatal care is provided.
The capabilities of Level II, listed below, are from the American Academy of Pediatrics definitions of levels of neonatal care. ¹
Level II special care nursery Level I capabilities plus:
-Provide care for infants born ≥32 wks. gestation and weighing ≥1500 g who have physiologic immaturity or who are moderately ill with problems that are expected to resolve rapidly and are not anticipated to need subspecialty services on an urgent basis
-Provide care for infants convalescing after intensive care
-Provide mechanical ventilation for brief duration (<24 h) or continuous positive airway pressure or both
-Stabilize infants born before 32 wks. gestation and weighing less than 1500 g until transfer to a neonatal intensive care facility
Combined nursery housing both Level II and III newborns and infants, as per the NHSN level definitions above and below. This is analogous to a mixed acuity unit specifically for Neonatal Critical Care patients.

A hospital neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) organized with personnel and equipment to provide continuous life support and comprehensive care for extremely high- risk newborn infants and those with complex and critical illness. The capabilities of Level III, listed below, are from the American Academy of Pediatrics definitions of levels of neonatal care.¹ Level III NICU Level II capabilities plus: -Provide sustained life support -Provide comprehensive care for infants born < 32 wks. gestation and weighing <1500 g and infants born at all gestational ages and birth weights with critical illness -Provide prompt and readily available access to a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical specialists, pediatric anesthesiologists, and pediatric ophthalmologists -Provide a full range of respiratory support that may include conventional and/or high-frequency ventilation and inhaled nitric oxide -Perform advanced imaging, with interpretation on an urgent basis, including computed tomography, MRI, and echocardiography
Critical care area for the care of newborns and infants with serious illness requiring Level IV care; area is supervised by a neonatologist Level IVLevel III capabilities plus:-Located within an institution with the capability to provide surgical repair of complex congenital or acquired conditions-Maintain a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical subspecialists, and pediatric subspecialists at the site-Facilitate transport and provide outreach education
Specialty care area for the care of patients who require acute dialysis as a temporary measure.
Specialty care area for the care of patients ≤18 years old who require acute dialysis as a temporary measure.
Specialty care area for the postoperative care of patients ≤18 years old who have had a solid organ transplant (for example, heart/lung, kidney, liver, pancreas).
Specialty care area for the postoperative care of patients >18 years old who have had a solid organ transplant (for example, heart/lung, kidney, liver, pancreas).
Hospital area for observation, evaluation, treatment or surgery of high-risk pregnancy women.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with acute psychiatric or behavioral disorders.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients who have burns.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery of patients with ear, nose, or throat disorders.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery of patients with disorders of the gastrointestinal tract.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery of patients with disorders of the genitourinary system.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery of patients with age-related diseases.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery of female patients with reproductive tract disorders.
Overnight stay patient care area of a hospital or correctional facility used only for those who are in custody of law enforcement during their treatment.
Area where women labor and give birth.
Suite used for labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum care -- all within the same suite.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with medical conditions or disorders.
Area for the evaluation of patients with medical and/or surgical conditions.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with neurologic disorders.
Area for the care of patients whose primary reason for admission is to have neurosurgery or to be cared for by a neurosurgeon after head or spinal trauma.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with leukemia.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with lymphoma.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with leukemia and/or lymphoma.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of oncology patients with solid tumors.
Area for the care of patients who undergo stem cell transplant for the treatment of cancers, immune effector cell therapy, and/or blood or immune system disorders.

Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with cancer and/or blood disorders.
Area for the care of patients whose primary reason for admission is to have eye surgery or to be cared for by an ophthalmologist after eye trauma.
Area for the evaluation, treatment, or surgery on bones, joints, and associated structures by an orthopedist.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with orthopedic injuries or disorders.
Area previously used for non-patient care which has been repurposed to care for non-critically ill or injured patients on a temporary basis OR a patient care area used for specifically for overflow admitted inpatients
Area for the care of patients who have reconstructive surgery performed by a plastic surgeon.
Area for the care of women recovering from childbirth.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with respiratory system conditions or disorders.
Area for the evaluation and restoration of function to patients who have lost function due to acute or chronic pain, musculoskeletal problems, stroke, or catastrophic events resulting in complete or partial paralysis.
Overnight stay patient care area of a school infirmary or health center (for example, private residential school or college campus).
Area for the evaluation, stabilization, and treatment of patients who have experienced an acute stroke.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients who have undergone a surgical procedure.
Hospital area dedicated to providing evaluation and treatment of patients requiring continuous cardiac monitoring
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients who have undergone vascular surgery.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients with chemical dependency.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients 13-18 years old with acute psychiatric or behavioral disorders.
Area for the care of patients ≤18 years old who undergo stem cell transplant for the treatment of cancers and/or blood or immune system disorders.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with cancer and/or blood disorders.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with acute psychiatric or behavioral disorders.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old who have tissue injury caused by burns.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with disorders of the ear, nose, and/or throat.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with disorders of the genitourinary system.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with medical conditions or disorders.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with medical and/or surgical conditions.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with neurologic disorders.
Area for care of patients ≤18 years old whose primary reason for admission is to have neurosurgery or to be cared for by a neurosurgeon after head or spinal trauma.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old with orthopedic injuries or disorders.
Area for the evaluation and restoration of function to patients ≤18 years old who have lost function due to acute or chronic pain, musculoskeletal problems, stroke, or catastrophic events resulting in complete or partial paralysis.
Area for the evaluation and treatment of patients ≤18 years old who have undergone a surgical procedure.
Area for adult patients who are hemodynamically stable and can benefit from close supervision and monitoring, such as frequent pulmonary toilet, vital signs, and/or neurologic and neurovascular checks.
Area for oncology patients who are hemodynamically stable and can benefit from close supervision and monitoring, such as frequent pulmonary toilet, vital signs, and/or neurologic and neurovascular checks.
Area for patients ≤18 years old who are hemodynamically stable and can benefit from close supervision and monitoring, such as frequent pulmonary toilet, vital signs, and/or neurologic and neurovascular checks.

Hospital area for the evaluation and treatment of adult patients whose conditions are of varying levels of acuity (for example, critical care, ward-level care, step-down type care, etc.). Such a care area may be comprised of patients followed by different hospital services (for example, coronary, medical, surgical, etc.). This care area may or may not include "acuity adaptable" or "universal" beds (specifically, this model of patient care allows a patient to stay in same bed during all phases of his care, from critical care through lower levels of care).
Hospital area for the evaluation and treatment of pediatric patients whose conditions are varying levels of acuity (for example, critical care, ward-level care, step down type care, etc.). Such a care area may be comprised of patients followed by different hospital services (for example, coronary, medical, surgical, etc.). This care area may or may not include "acuity adaptable" or "universal" beds (specifically, this model of patient care allows a patient to stay in the same bed during all phases of his care, from critical care through lower levels of care).
Hospital area for the evaluation and treatment of a mixture of adult and pediatric patients whose conditions are of varying levels of acuity (for example, critical care, ward-level care, step-down type care, etc.). Such a care area may be comprised of patients followed by different hospital services (for example, coronary, medical, surgical, etc.). This care area may or may not include "acuity adaptable" or "universal" beds (specifically, this model of patient care allows a patient to stay in same bed during all phases of his care, from critical care through lower levels of care).
Area for the evaluation and treatment of a mixture of adult and pediatric oncology patients whose conditions are of varying levels of acuity (for example, critical care, ward-level care, step-down type care, etc.). This care area may or may not include "acuity adaptable" or "universal" beds (specifically, this model of patient care allows a patient to stay in the same bed during all phases of care, from critical care through lower levels of care).
A room or rooms in a hospital equipped for the performance of heart catheterizations for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes. Operating Room requirements for air changes, temperature, humidity and surfaces must be met.
A room or suite in a hospital equipped for the performance of obstetric and gynecologic surgeries and for the care of the neonate immediately after birth. Operating Room requirements for air changes, temperature, humidity and surfaces must be met.
A room where diagnostic or therapeutic radiology procedures are done on outpatients or inpatients. Operating room requirements for air changes, temperature, humidity, and surfaces must be met.
A room or suite in a hospital equipped for the performance of surgical operations. Requirements for air changes, temperature, humidity, and surfaces must be met.
Area designated for monitoring patients for immediate effects of anesthesia before either going home or on to an in-patient care area.
Area where patients are monitored for suspected or non-life-threatening conditions for 24 hours or less. More than 50% of patients in this location must be outpatients who are not expected to be admitted to an inpatient unit.
Area that provides emergency medical services; top priority is given to those with life-threatening illness or injury.

USER GUIDE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

---> The **FY 2029 Validation Template User Guide and Submission Instructions**, along with supporting documentation, can be found on the CMS *QualityNet* website.

To access, select **[Hospitals-Inpatient]**, and then **[Data Management]**, followed by **[Data Validation]**, and lastly **[Resources]**:

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/data-management/data-validation/resources>

The only acceptable method of sending HAI Validation Templates is via the CMS Unified File Management (UFM)/Managed File Transfer (MFT) web-based application:

<https://qnetmft.cms.gov>

HAI Validation Templates contain Protected Health Information (PHI) and cannot be sent via email -- even if a template were sent encrypted from a secure workplace email, it would still be considered a security violation.

It is recommended to submit HAI Validation Templates at least a week prior to the submission deadline in case there are difficulties with transmitting files, and to allow time for revisions/corrections when necessary.

If you are unable to log in to UFM/MFT, the first person to contact is your hospital's Security Official (SO).

If your SO is unable to establish your access, you will need to contact the Center for Clinical Standards & Quality (CCSQ) Service Center by phone at 866-288-8912.

It is recommended hospitals have two SOs at all times to ensure the ability to upload Validation Templates by the established submission deadlines.

We suggest hospitals ask their IT department to add validation@telligen.com to their 'Safe Senders List' to ensure validation-related email notifications are received.

HAI VALIDATION TEMPLATE COMPLETION & SUBMISSION TIPS

Prior to submitting HAI Validation Templates to CMS, **it is recommended that quality assurance is performed** on the data within the template.

Review the [Definitions] tab to ensure correct information is entered in each field.

- ✓ Do not add, delete, rename, or change the order of the tabs.
- ✓ Do not add, delete, or rename column headings.
- ✓ Do not leave the first row blank or skip rows between patient data.
- ✓ Make sure the Provider ID/CCN field is exactly 6 numeric characters (do not add a hyphen).
- ✓ Make sure the State field contains the 2 character abbreviation for your state, not the full state name.
- ✓ Verify the Calendar Quarter listed on each Validation Template is correct.
- ✓ Review all dates for accuracy and correct format as specified on the [Definitions] tab.
- ✓ If a patient has not been discharged from the hospital, enter 'Not Discharged' for the Discharge Date field.
- ✓ The 'Specimens Toxin Positive for C. diff' column cannot include rows listing both "Yes" and "No"; entering "No" indicates no positive cultures for the quarter.
- ✓ Ensure all NHSN locations are within the approved NHSN drop down on the template. Hospital-assigned locations will not be accepted.
- ✓ Be sure to populate all required fields on each consecutive row if there were multiple final positive cultures collected for the same patient.
- ✓ Perform quality check of data entered into this template against what was entered into NHSN; stay mindful of differing CMS and NHSN deadlines.
- ✓ Check to ensure any cases with a separate Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) or Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (IPF) CCN are not included on the template.
- ✓ Append the file name with the 6-digit CMS Certification Number (CCN)/Provider ID, followed by an underscore and the quarter.

For example: 012345_1QYY_FYXX_CDI_ValTemp.xlsx

When submitting templates via the [Compose] button within the **Mail** area of the UFM/MFT dashboard, input the subject of the message with the 6-digit CCN/Provider ID, Submission Quarter, and Template type(s) attached.

For example: 012345 1QYY FYXX MRSA & CDI Validation Templates

- When choosing a recipient, select the ellipsis button to the right of the To field and then select the [Groups] tab to locate the "Validation Support Contractor" group.
Do NOT select any individual person(s) from the recipient list; only select the "Validation Support Contract" Group.
Some individual accounts are not regularly monitored—sending to any one individual risks delay in processing.
- Leave the 'Require Registered Users' box checked under Options. Un-checking this box puts the message at risk of not being processed.
- We strongly encourage hospitals to add a check on the 'Read Receipt' box under Options.

After a file has been *downloaded* by someone on the Validation Support Contractor team, it will be in the queue for processing.

- It is suggested that users verify a message has been sent by clicking on the [Sent Items] button from the left-side navigation panel of the UFM/MFT dashboard.

NOTE: *It can take a couple minutes for messages to appear in the Sent Items folder. Please, do **NOT** re-send messages multiple times, as this significantly delays processing and requires version confirmation.*

- You will receive email confirmation (usually within 2 business days of being downloaded) from the Validation Support Contractor letting you know the Validation Templates were *processed*. If you do not receive a processing confirmation, please include your hospital's 6-digit CCN/Provider ID in an email to validation@telligen.com