

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Data Use Agreement (DUA) With Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Frequently Asked Questions



ADHS has entered into a DUA with the CDC's NHSN. ADHS will gain access to data reported to NHSN from healthcare facilities in the state of Arizona. The access granted to ADHS is exclusively for the purposes of surveillance and prevention. It is hoped that this access will enhance the value of data reported to NHSN for public health purposes.

The questions and answers below will provide further details.

How are the data going to be used by ADHS?

The data will be used for healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance and prevention purposes and not legal and regulatory action.

Who in ADHS will have access to the data?

Access to the data is intended for the state HAI program for prevention activities. You may contact Eugene Livar, MD the ADHS HAI program manager, at Eugene.Livar@azdhs.gov with questions or concerns.

What data will be included in the data use agreement?

Each data use agreement is modeled using a template developed by CDC and customized by CDC and ADHS to reflect local data needs, protections, and policies. If your state has a data use agreement, CDC will make the agreement publicly available on [CDC's website](#). It is important to note that past data (i.e., data that was entered into NHSN prior to the opt-out period) will not be shared; only future data will be shared with the health department.

Where can I view the DUA?

You can view the DUA between ADHS and CDC by visiting:
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/hai/surveillance/data-use-agreement.htm> or
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/stateplans/Arizona_DUA.pdf.

Will facility-identifiable data be made publicly available?

No. Making facility-identifiable data publicly available would be a violation of the data use agreement and CDC will terminate the data use agreement immediately with ADHS.

What guarantee does a hospital have that a data use agreement will not be breached?

ADHS is taking an increasingly critical role in the prevention of HAIs. In many states, health departments have developed expertise in HAI prevention and are launching statewide prevention programs in which facilities can participate. By sharing data, prevention needs can be identified, and tailored strategies can be planned and evaluated. ADHS would be motivated to abide by the data use agreement to gain access to HAI data in CDC's NHSN. A breach in this contract will end the contract, ending the data flow to the state health department.

If the same data is on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS's) Hospital Compare, why does Arizona want it through a data use agreement with CDC?

The data use agreement allows CDC to share data with ADHS sooner and with more detail than if the state uses CMS's Hospital Compare.

How does ADHS entering into a data use agreement benefit my hospital?

Many state health departments have an effective and collaborative relationship with facilities in their state, including the prioritizing of prevention programs and opportunities for undertaking

complementary HAI prevention projects. The data use agreement may foster additional collaborations between facilities and ADHS in this manner.

Can a hospital opt-out of voluntary reporting to NHSN to avoid access of data by ADHS?

After ADHS worked with CDC to complete the data use agreement, the CDC provided healthcare facilities in Arizona an opportunity of 3 months to opt out of voluntary reporting to NHSN in 2012. This opportunity to opt out of voluntary reporting has ended.

Is Arizona required to have a data use agreement?

No. Participation is at the discretion of each state, however having a DUA is the only way for ADHS to access NHSN data.

What are the next steps?

The CDC set up a “Super Group” for the state of Arizona that includes ADHS and participating facilities. CDC will set up the rights based on the data request included in the DUA.

Will hospitals have to do anything additional within NHSN to participate in this program?

No additional steps will be necessary to share your data, such as joining Arizona’s “Super Group” in NHSN. CDC will administer a special “Super Group” for your state health department and your facility will automatically be joined to the Group. Your NHSN Facility Administrator can view the data sharing template for this Group at any time from within the NHSN application.

How will facilities know if they have been added to the Super Group?

Email notification will be sent to facility administrators and primary contacts from NHSN when the facility is added to the Super Group.

Can facilities that are included in the Super Group view the *define rights template*?

Facilities can view define rights template, but not edit it.

What data is in scope for the DUA?

Only data in a facility’s monthly reporting plan is in scope for the DUA.

When will data be available to the state group administrator?

When facilities are added to the Super Group and notification emails are sent.

How long is the DUA valid?

The DUA is valid for 5 years.

Who at the state health department can a hospital contact for additional information?

You may contact Eugene Livar, MD the ADHS HAI program manager at Eugene.Livar@azdhs.gov.

Resources:

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Data Use Agreement with ADHS

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/hai/surveillance/data-use-agreement.htm>

CDC Data Use Agreement with State Health Departments Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/DUA-FAQ.html>

CDC Introduces New Way for State Health Departments to Access Data Reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/surveillance/DUA-announcement.html>