

**DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee
November 2015**

NATIONAL ISSUES

REMINDER: Read your weekly APIC E-News and visit APIC's Public Policy page for updates on federal issues

APIC Public Policy (2015)

<http://apic.org/Advocacy/Government-Affairs-and-Advocacy>

APIC E-News Highlights (2015)

<http://apic.org/Member-Services/Publications/E-News>

| | |
|------------|---|
| 9/9/15 | APIC provides input to NQF on Patient Safety Measures |
| 9/16/15 | APIC provides input on revisions to long-term care requirements |
| 9/16/2015 | CDC just released a new resource, The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship, for nursing homes. |
| 9/23/2015 | APIC joins coalition supporting antibiotic, rapid diagnostics bill |
| 9/23/2015 | FDA approves Ebola diagnostic device |
| 9/30/2015 | September 2015 NHSN e-Newsletter released |
| 9/30/2015 | APIC opposes the repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund |
| 10/7/2015 | CDC and CMS issue joint reminder on adherence to NHSN reporting criteria |
| 10/7/2015 | FDA orders surveillance on duodenoscopes |
| 10/7/2015 | FDA determines new Tyvek® products equivalent to older versions |
| 10/26/2015 | APIC provides input to FDA on healthcare antiseptics |

Texas HAI/PAE Reporting Resources:

Be sure and check the website below for updated information on facility requirements and/or sign up for e-mail updates:

Texas HAI Homepage: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/infection_control/hai/

Texas Register (2015)

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>

Last Review Completed: 11/2/2015

Current Search Parameters for Review:

25 TAC: Chapters 2, 97, 133, 135, 200

30 TAC: Chapter 330; Subchapter Y

Key: X Pending

| X | Date | Action | Title/Ch./Rule | Topic / Comments |
|---|------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| | 10/9/2015 | Proposed Rule Amendments | 25 TAC §§97.1 - 97.7, 97.13 | The purpose of the amendments is to clarify the conditions and diseases that must be reported; clarify the minimal reportable information requirements for the conditions and diseases; and adjust the list of reportable diseases to include diseases and conditions of concern to public health. |
| | 10/16/2015 | Adopted Rule Amendments | 25 TAC §§97.131 - 97.134, 97.139 | The amendments update and clarify the disease reporting rules for STDs, including HIV and AIDS and make the disease reporting process more efficient in Texas. The amendments clarify reporting language, align the reporting rules with recent changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) HIV surveillance case definition, and update language to reflect advancements in HIV testing technology. |

Highlights, 10/9/2015 Proposed Rule Communicable Disease Reporting 25 TAC §§97.1 - 97.7, 97.13

- Updates the definition of Vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA) and the nomenclature for Multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter* (MDR-A) for consistency.
- Updates the reporting period for multidrug-resistant organisms from immediate to one working day.
- Groups together the hepatitis infections; update the Shiga toxin-producing *E.coli* nomenclature to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; clarify the culture isolation sites for *Neisseria meningitidis*; and correct the spelling of *meningitidis*.
- Revises "*Haemophilus influenzae* type b infection, invasive" to "*Haemophilus influenzae*, invasive" to ensure that all *Haemophilus influenzae*
- Replaces Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) with "prion diseases, such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)" to include all types and forms of prion disease occurring in the human population.
- Updates the language for consistency; clarify the different types of tuberculosis infection; and update the type of Hansen's disease to report.
- Updates the language for arboviral conditions to allow novel or emerging arboviruses (such as Chikungunya) to be reported

Highlights, 10/16/15 adopted rule amendments 25 TAC §§97.131 - 97.134, 97.139

- New numbered definitions: (1) Acute HIV Infection, (3) Contract Research Organization, (4) Drug Resistance Testing, (5) Health Professional, (7) Nucleotide Sequence, (11) Stage of HIV Infection, and (12) Supplemental test.
- Section 97.131(2), confirmatory test, was deleted because advances in diagnostic testing technology have changed the terms associated with HIV and AIDS diagnostic testing, rendering the definition outdated.
- Laboratories can now use any electronic format for submitting sequence data.
- Aligns terms with the CDC's new case surveillance definition.
- Ensures that all general reporting requirements are met in addition to the more specific reporting requirements pertaining to STD, including HIV and AIDS, addressed in Subchapter F.
- Replaces the language "physician or dentist" with "health professional" which is a new term added under §97.131(5), Definitions.
- Reflects new facilities where testing is now taking place and clarifies that these facilities are required to report to the department.
- Clarifies that failure to report is considered a crime under the Health and Safety Code, §81.049.
- §97.132(c) specifies that reporting to the department without authorization is allowed under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for public health purposes where required by law and list the enabling federal regulations.

Prepared by: Stephanie Kreiling and Patti Grant.

2015 APIC-DFW Governmental Affairs Committee: Stephanie Kreiling, Patti Grant, Jerry Kelley, Teri Mauldin, and Brenda Helms.