Acute Care Hospitals: Troubleshooting your CLABSI and CAUTI SIRs

We suggest that you review the [General Tips for NHSN Analysis](#) document before reviewing this troubleshooting guide any further. This guide assumes recent dataset generation and no 'Alerts' on the home screen.

➢ **CLABSI and CAUTI SIR general information:**
  - CLABSI baseline time period: 2006-2008
  - CAUTI baseline time period: 2009
  - Data used for the CLABSI and CAUTI SIR baselines can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/sir/RatesSIRs-Reference_Jan2014.pdf

➢ **Problem #1: Some of my locations are not included in the SIR, even though I know I have entered complete data for those locations.**

   Solution: Some locations are excluded from the CLABSI and CAUTI SIR calculation. These locations did not have enough reported data during the baseline time periods to be included in aggregate analyses, and therefore cannot be included in your current SIR calculation.

   Excluded locations include (but not limited to): Telemetry Ward, Mixed Acuity Ward, Burn Ward, Acute Stroke Ward, Pediatric Surgical ICU, etc. Data from excluded locations can be found at the bottom of the CLABSI and CAUTI SIR outputs, in the table titled "CLABSI (or CAUTI) Data Not Included in the SIR".

   Note: Only those locations included in the Annual DA Rate report during the respective baseline time periods are included in the current SIRs.

➢ **Problem #2: My quarterly SIR for CMS IPPS shows fewer CLABSI (or CAUTI) events and/or fewer device days than I have entered in NHSN.**

   Solution:
  - <u>Step 1</u>: Check your monthly reporting plans for all 3 months of the quarter. Be sure that all applicable ICU and select ward locations are included in your monthly reporting plans for CLABSI (or CAUTI) surveillance.

  - <u>Step 2</u>: Be sure that you have entered denominator data, both patient days and central line (or urinary catheter) days, for all ICU and select ward locations for all 3 months of the quarter. If no events were entered for any month, the appropriate 'No Events' box should be checked.

  - <u>Step 3</u>: Run a line list of CLABSI (or CAUTI) events for the time period of interest. Review specific details of each event to determine possible reasons for exclusion.
    - If central line= "No" on any BSI event, the event is not considered a CLABSI and will be excluded from the SIR. If urinary catheter = "NEITHER" on any UTI event, the event is not considered a CAUTI and will be excluded from the SIR. Note that the "centralLine" and the "UrinaryCath" variables will need to be manually added to the line list through the Modify option.

    - The CLABSI and CAUTI SIR output for CMS IPPS only includes:
      - CLABSI events from adult, pediatric, and neonatal ICUs
      - CAUTI events from adult and pediatric ICUs
      - For both CLABSI and CAUTI, starting in 2015:
        - Medical ward, medical/surgical ward, surgical ward, pediatric medical ward, pediatric medical/surgical ward, and pediatric surgical ward

CMS IPPS Checklist for CLABSI SIR: http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/CMS/Helpful-Tips-for-CLABSI-Reporting.pdf
CMS IPPS Checklist for CAUTI SIR: http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/CMS/Helpful-Tips-for-CAUTI-Reporting.pdf