

PITAS Study Frequently Asked Questions

Who is conducting the study?

The study is being conducted by Dr. Monika Pogorzelska-Maziarz from Thomas Jefferson University and Dr. Pamela de Cordova from Rutgers University (co-principal investigators), as well as other researchers from Thomas Jefferson University, Columbia University, and the RAND Corporation. Each institution brings unique perspectives, expertise, and resources to the table, enriching the study's design, implementation, and analysis.

Who is funding the study?

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is funding this research (R01HS029023).

Who is eligible to participate?

We are looking for one response per hospital, so the survey should be completed by the Infection Control Director or the person in charge of infection control department in the hospital.

What is involved in participation?

Participation in the study consists of two steps:

1. Completing the PITAS Survey (30-45 minutes) - You can save the answers to your questions and come back to the survey at a later time.
2. Sharing NHSN data through the PITAS NHSN group (5 minutes) - Once you complete the PITAS survey, follow the provided instructions to join the PITAS NHSN group.

My hospital is part of a hospital system. Should the survey be filled out by individual hospitals or by the system IP director?

The survey is designed to be completed at the infection control department level. If you have one centralized IPC department, the survey should be filled out by the system director for all of the hospitals covered by the department. There are core questions related to IPC department and staffing and a section about hospital level policies that is repeated for each hospital covered by the system.

If each hospital has its own IPC department, each hospital should fill out a separate survey. There is a section about the system/system director in the survey and we will roll up the hospital level data to the system after the survey is completed.

How does the study ensure the privacy and security of data?

The protection of data privacy and confidentiality is of utmost importance in the PITAS Study. All data provided by hospitals is de-identified and stored in secure databases with restricted access. Furthermore, in any public reports or publications resulting from the study, all findings are presented in aggregated and anonymized forms. No individual hospitals or IPs will be identified in any reports or publications.

What data are you collecting through NHSN?

One of the goals of the study is to look at the evolution of IPC staffing and resources over the last decade and its impact on HAI rates. To do this, we are asking for access to the following de-identified data from the Patient Safety component:

- 2011 - 2024 NHSN Annual Survey (We're collecting 2024 data since it reflects facility characteristics for 2023)
- 2011 - 2023 CLABSI, CAUTI, VAE, Pneumonia, MDRO/CDI rates (as applicable)
- 2011 - 2023 CLIP practices and antimicrobial use (as applicable)

The reason why we are asking for data going back to 2011 is that we are linking back to staffing data collected as part of the "Prevention of Nosocomial Infections and Cost Effectiveness" (PNICER) Study and looking at trends in staffing over the last 12 years. Linking staffing data to HAI rates will allow us to validate staffing recommendations for infection prevention and control.

What if I did not collect this data or do not want to share it?

When you join our group within NHSN, you will have an **option of choosing which data you would like to share with us**. If you do not feel comfortable sharing all of the requested data, you can modify which viewing rights you confer to us.

What are the benefits of participation?

- Your valuable insights will help shape the future of infection prevention and control.
- Responses to the survey will be used to make recommendations and develop strategies to improve infection prevention and control department staffing and resource allocation.
- You will be helping to advance infection prevention and control research.
- You will have a chance to win \$100 Amazon electronic gift cards in a weekly lottery. Ten prizes will be given out each week across the survey period. You will be entered into the lottery as soon as you fill out the survey.