

Track Infections Using the National Healthcare Safety Network

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) provides the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as a system to track healthcare-associated infections. NHSN provides facilities, states, regions and the nation with data to identify problem areas, measure the progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate healthcare-associated infections (HAI). It allows the ability to see data collected in real-time while ensuring data security, integrity and confidentiality. NHSN provides the capability to do the following:

- Identify infection prevention problems by facility, state, or specific quality improvement project
- Benchmark progress of infection prevention efforts
- Comply with state and federal public reporting mandates
- Drive national progress toward the elimination of HAIs

If you need assistance to get started in NHSN to create an account for your nursing home or have questions about your current account or data entry, reach out to the [Qsource](#) team! The team provides a useful tool for [facilities to evaluate NHSN readiness](#), conducts training and technical assistance, review and provides guidance on various components of the [Long Term Care Facility Component guide](#), help with adding internal users, as well as addressing questions around requirements beyond infection data reporting. Some of the NHSN requirements include the following:

- Completing the **annual survey**
- Building your **monthly reporting plan**
- Completing the **re-consent** process before the associated deadline

[Reach out to Qsource for Guidance](#)

Scott Gibson is one of the Qsource Quality Improvement Advisors for Kentucky. He and others on the Qsource team are also available to provide education on NHSN and infection prevention best practices. Please contact Scott by email at scott.gibson@area-G.hcqis.org or by phone at 502-680-2669 to receive free technical assistance. Scott is an expert on quality improvement and offers education on a wide variety of topics, including reducing avoidable readmissions, end-of-life conversation facilitation, and Nursing Home Compare. Also available are past articles on other health care related issues, such as Composite Scores, pain management and behavioral health strategies. Connect with Scott for copies of previous articles on these topics and more.



Scott Gibson

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Formed as a partnership between three leading healthcare consultancies, [atom Alliance](#) is working under contract to CMS throughout Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee to improve quality and achieve better outcomes in health and healthcare and at lower costs for the patients and communities. Through atom Alliance, AQAF in Alabama, IQH in Mississippi and Qsource in Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee are carrying out an exciting

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strategic plan, with programs in place to convene, teach and inform healthcare providers, engage and empower patients, and inspire, share knowledge and spread best practices with communities across the entire healthcare continuum. Please visit the atom Alliance for helpful educational resources on various topics.

Residents are at risk for [pneumococcal disease](#). Encourage everyone who is 65 years or older and those 19 through 64 years old with certain health conditions or who smoke cigarettes to receive a pneumococcal vaccine!