



# Expanding Occupational Health Surveillance within the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)



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## What is the NHSN?

The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is a voluntary, secure, internet-based surveillance system that integrates and expands legacy patient and healthcare personnel safety surveillance systems managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The patient safety component was established in 2005 and the healthcare personnel safety component became available in 2009. NHSN also includes a new component for hospitals to monitor adverse reactions and incidents associated with receipt of blood and blood products.

Enrollment is open to all types of healthcare facilities in the United States, including acute care hospitals, long term acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient dialysis centers, ambulatory surgery centers, and long term care facilities.

## Why is NIOSH considering new occupational modules to NHSN?

- Over 15 million workers are employed in the healthcare industry.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, hospitals consistently have among the highest rates of recordable injuries and illnesses — approximately 258,000 cases in 2008, including:
  - Musculoskeletal disorders due to patient handling
  - Traumatic injuries from falls and workplace violence
  - Contact dermatitis
  - Work-related asthma
  - Airborne transmission of tuberculosis

## Who can get involved in this project?

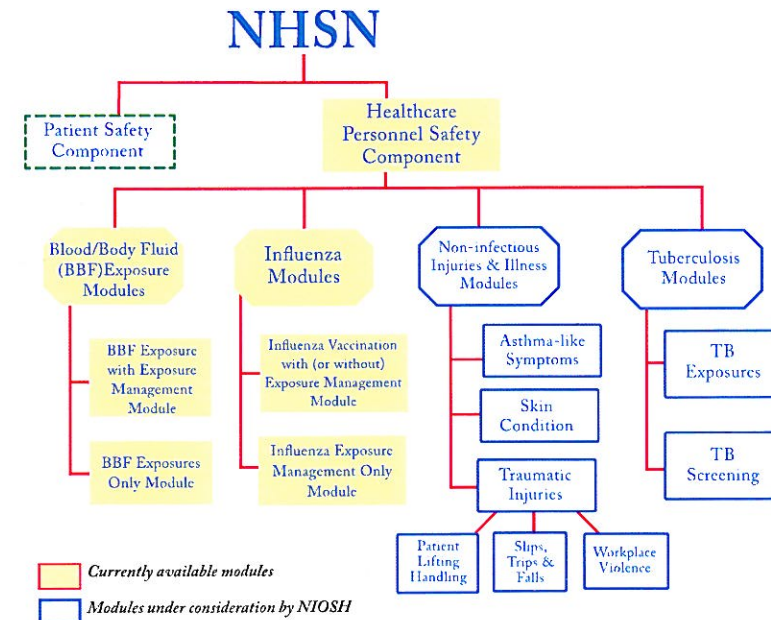
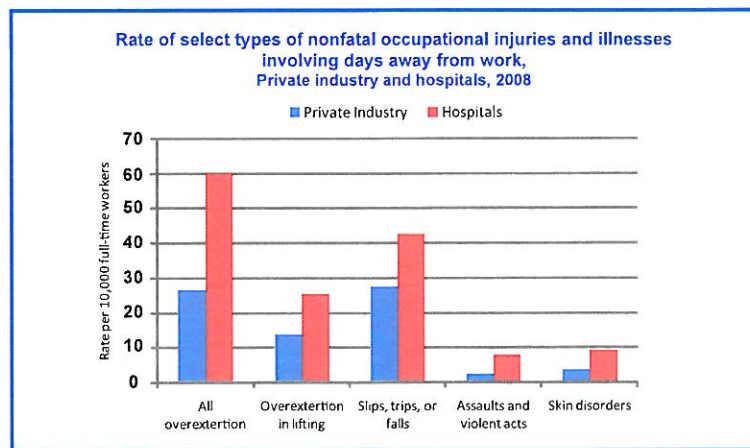
- Occupational health professionals in the healthcare industry who are the intended users of the system.
- Other stakeholders interested in the health and safety of healthcare personnel.

## Why should I get involved in this project?

- Collecting data on these events through the NHSN Healthcare Personnel Safety Component will help healthcare facilities:
  - Monitor the health of their employees.
  - Identify and address problems.
  - Benchmark against averages among comparable facilities.
  - Meet record-keeping requirements for OSHA.
  - Facilitate accreditation by the Joint Commission.

## Proposed options for data collection

- Develop new web interface(s) for data entry, similar to current modules.
  - Pro: Can tailor data elements to meet healthcare needs
  - Con: May require duplicate data entry
- Import data into NHSN from commercial software.
  - Pro: Minimizes burden of data entry
  - Con: May limit data elements we can collect
- Will be determined by results of system analysis.



## How can you get involved with this project?

- Development phase: provide input regarding data to be collected and how to collect it.
- Testing phase: pilot test the draft paper forms or beta-test the preliminary electronic product.
- Production phase: use the system to meet your data needs and share data with CDC and other relevant groups.

For more information and to learn how to participate in the healthcare personnel safety modules under consideration contact:

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