What Does the Authority Do with the Reports?
The Authority analyzes the data and uses the analysis to develop publications and tools, including the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory, which is published in March, June, September and December. The award-winning Advisory has gained worldwide recognition and is utilized by healthcare professionals around the country.

To receive the Advisory via e-mail, contact the Authority at www.patientsafetyauthority.org.

The Authority also collaborates with other healthcare organizations using the data as a starting point for improving patient safety. Educational courses are offered and presentations given using the data to focus on specific areas of improvement.

New Analytical Tools for Nursing Homes
Due to the recent change in reporting requirements, the Authority updated its analytical reports and tools for nursing homes. Features of the analytical tools include the following:

- Analytics are generated to provide real-time information.
- Individual facility infection rates can now be compared with a peer group rate or state rate.
- Reports are exportable in Excel, Word, or as a PDF.
- Graphs and tables have been designed with improved display features.
- Users can drill down through their data from a facility level through to the unit level.

Why Should Healthcare Workers Report Events?
Healthcare workers should report events so that everyone can learn from them and ensure correct steps are taken to prevent the same event from occurring again. By reporting Serious Events (HAIs), you can take the first step in preventing another patient from being harmed in the same way.

To see how reports are turned into learning opportunities through Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory articles, go to www.patientsafetyauthority.org.

For more information contact the Authority at:
Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority
333 Market Street, Lobby Level
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-346-0469
What is the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority?

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (Authority) is a non-regulatory independent state agency created through legislation (Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error, “MCARE Act”) to help reduce and eliminate medical errors by identifying problems and recommending solutions that promote patient safety.

What Must Be Reported?

All facilities under the MCARE Act (hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, birthing centers and abortion facilities) must report all Serious Events (events that cause harm to the patient) and Incidents or near misses (events that do not cause harm to the patient) to the Authority for analysis and educational purposes.

HAI Reporting for Hospitals

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) must be reported by hospitals through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) reporting system. The Authority, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council (PHC4) have access to NHSN for their individual roles in helping eliminate and reduce HAIs.

Act 52 of 2007 – An Amendment to the MCARE Act for Infection Reporting

In 2007, under legislation (Act 52), nursing homes began reporting HAIs to the Authority through its Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS). The legislation was signed into law to help reduce and eliminate HAIs in Pennsylvania’s hospitals and nursing homes.

What Is the Healthcare-Associated Infection Advisory Panel?

The Authority’s panel of infection control experts from across the commonwealth provides advice and guidance to implement the infection prevention law (Act 52 of 2007).

HAI Reporting for Nursing Homes

Nursing homes must report HAIs as Serious Events through PA-PSRS for the Authority’s educational purposes. DOH also receives the HAI reports from nursing homes for its regulatory and benchmarking purposes.

On April 1, 2014, the Authority implemented system changes for nursing home users to PA-PSRS according to NHSN criteria and the 2012 McGeer criteria. Detailed information explaining the system changes and education are on the Authority’s website at www.patientsafetyauthority.org under News and Information, then Healthcare-Associated Infections.

Who Submits Reports for My Facility?

In nursing homes, facility-appointed designees submit reports to the Authority through PA-PSRS.

In hospitals, facility-appointed designees submit reports through NHSN.

Who Should Report?

Everyone in the healthcare facility, including non-clinical workers like housekeeping staff, should report any patient safety concerns to their supervisor.

Will My Name Be Mentioned in the Report?

Patient names and healthcare worker names are not submitted with the reports. All information contained in the report is de-identified and confidential. By law, the Authority is not allowed to have any names or identifying information contained in the reports.

Is the Authority Part of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)?

No. While the Authority will work with DOH to educate facilities, the Authority is an independent agency. The Authority’s mission is to educate healthcare facilities by implementing guidance based upon research of the data collected. DOH receives Serious Events for its regulatory purposes.