



AHRQ Safety Program for Intensive Care Units: Preventing CLABSI and CAUTI

FAQs for Interested ICUs

How long is the program? ICUs participate for 12 months.

Who is eligible to participate?

Adult ICUs with a positive Cumulative Attributable Difference (CAD) (i.e., >0) in CLABSI and/or CAUTI, between October 2016 and September 2017, are eligible to participate. This CAD metric identifies the number of infections a unit needs to prevent to reach a reduction goal. To determine your eligibility, please contact your hospital National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) administrator to run a Targeted Assessment for Prevention, or [TAP report](#).

Why should I participate?

By participating, you will help prevent harm from infections and join the crucial effort to achieve the U.S. Health and Human Services 2020 CLABSI and CAUTI reduction goals. This program is tailored to the unique needs of the participating unit based on the ICU assessment completed at the start of the program. The ICU assessment is focused on CLABSI and CAUTI and addresses team practices and safety culture. Each ICU receives a customized report with information on how to address identified gaps, including recommended e-learning modules for ICU staff.

What resources will be offered?

All educational offerings are virtual, including onboarding webinars, monthly collaborative webinars, and on-demand modules focused on essential CLABSI and CAUTI prevention interventions. Your unit will network with other ICUs to share best practices and receive coaching support for your unique challenges. ICUs learn evidence-based technical and socio-adaptive or culture aspects of infection prevention. Integrated into the interventions is AHRQ's Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP) model that can address all patient and staff safety issues in the unit. Along with assistance from nationally recognized experts and other participating ICUs, participants will receive customized data reports and can compare data outcomes with other participating units.

How is this program different from other programs like HIIN?

HIIN is a broad-based patient safety initiative with multiple targets for improvement. The AHRQ Safety Program for ICUs is targeted only to adult ICUs and focuses solely on CLABSI and CAUTI reduction. The AHRQ Safety Program for ICUs is compatible with HIIN, and AHRQ and CMS are coordinating at a national level. The two initiatives can be complementary—resources from the AHRQ Safety Program can help hospitals reach their HIIN goals.

Does my unit have to work on CLABSI and CAUTI?

An ICU may choose to work on only one of these HAIs or may choose to work on both.



Which staff member should lead the program in the ICU?

A unit-based staff member should lead the effort, i.e., a unit manager or supervisor, HAI champion or staff nurse. Infection prevention staff can provide support, but should not be the unit lead.

What are the participation requirements?

Enrolled ICUs are expected to participate for the entire 12 month duration. Participants are required to:

- Confer rights to NHSN CLABSI and CAUTI data.
- Attend onboarding webinars and monthly collaborative webinars.
- Complete a baseline assessment of ICU culture and practices (the ICU Assessment) to identify gaps.
- Develop an action plan to address one or more gaps.
- Report on action plan progress.
- Engage in coaching opportunities (phone, potential site visit, etc.) with key contacts and subject matter experts.

What is the cost to participate?

There is no charge to participate in this 12-month program, which is funded and guided by AHRQ, and led by the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET).

What is the time commitment for the unit lead in this project? If my ICU chooses to address both CLABSI and CAUTI, does the time commitment double?

The program begins July 30, 2018, with an estimated time commitment for the Unit Lead around 8-10 hours maximum a month regardless of HAI focus. The workload can be distributed among team members and the majority of the skills learned in the program can be applied to both CLABSI and CAUTI.

Can ICUs in my hospital without a positive CAD participate?

No, however, participating eligible ICUs can share program materials and lessons learned with other ICUs in their facility.

Who can I contact to register for this program?

Please contact ICUSafety@aha.org or your State Lead (if already assigned) to learn more information.