

APIC/New Mexico  
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## Position Statement

APIC NM (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc., New Mexico Chapter) is a multi-disciplinary voluntary organization whose purpose is to influence, support and improve the quality of healthcare through the practice and management of infection control and the application of epidemiology in all health settings throughout New Mexico.

Currently, legislation is pending in New Mexico that proposes mandatory public reporting of healthcare-associated infections (HAI). APIC NM supports the intention of public reporting and all efforts to prevent healthcare associated infections as well as providing consumers with information that allows informed choices in their healthcare. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Healthcare Infection Control and Prevention Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recently concluded that there is not enough evidence to determine whether mandatory public reporting of HAI will reduce infection rates or provide useful information to consumers.

The legislation of mandatory reporting of HAI needs to be approached thoughtfully and with careful consideration of all the potential difficulties involved. There must be standardized methods used to collect and report data. There must be a consensus among hospitals on which HAI would be reported. There must be risk stratification to be able to compare rates between hospitals. These methods must be developed in order to have the reported rates be meaningful to the consumer as well as the facilities own Performance Improvement initiatives. In addition, because the percentage of HAI that are preventable is not known, emphasis should be placed on tracking compliance with specific evidence-based preventative measures that have been proven to reduce HAI.

APIC NM would encourage our Legislators to visit the CDC's HICPAC recommendations at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/PublicReportingGuide.pdf> as well as the National APIC website at [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org) to view their draft guideline on reporting of HAI Rates.

APIC NM supports the joint memorial that requests additional evaluation and consideration. There must be adequate time to develop and institute a system of standardized, risk-stratified surveillance and reporting system. This should be done in conjunction with experienced professionals who work in Infection Control such as APIC, State Department of Health, Infectious Disease Physicians and Physician Epidemiologists. For mandatory HAI reporting, adequate numbers of trained Infection Control Specialists will need to be in place to conduct surveillance and ensure the collected data is accurate and meaningful.

As Infection Control Professionals and patient safety advocates we strive daily to improve patient care and outcomes and look forward to contributing to the formulation of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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