



# PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program

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## Support Contractor

### Using NHSN for Reporting Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel

#### Questions and Answers

##### Moderator:

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##### Speakers:

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**2 p.m. ET**

**Question 1:**      **Our biggest non-compliant group is individuals who work only a short period during flu season but then either terminate or leave the hospital. We then find it difficult to follow up with them to determine if they received vaccinations outside of our hospital. Do you have any guidance or best practices how to deal with terminated employees or other staff no longer employed with an unknown vaccination status?**

*We've received questions from other facilities along these same lines of how to reach individuals who worked at a facility for only part of the flu season. We do have a strategies worksheet developed based on suggestions and methods used at other facilities for similar situations. As noted on slide 70, these strategies are listed on our webpage at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/hps-manual/vaccination/general-strategies->*



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[hcp-groups.pdf](#). We recommend you look there and, if you have any additional questions, feel free to email us at [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov).

**Question 2:** Can you clarify what the custom fields function is in the summary data entry screen?

*Custom Fields are not required. You can, however, actually build the Custom Fields into your data entry screen to track the flu vaccination of certain categories of personnel. For example, if you wanted to track the vaccination status of nurses in your facility, you can use Custom Fields to do that. Keep in mind that it's not required, but if you would like to do that, you can follow the instructions in the webinar and create those fields.*

**Question 3:** Are vendors that enter the operating room and other areas of the hospital considered a contractor?

*Vendors are considered individuals who go into a facility with the primary purpose of selling their products. They are not considered other contract personnel. The CDC considers contracted personnel to be those who are providing services to the facility or to patients. Vendors are not in that category, so they should not be included in your Influenza Vaccination Summary Data.*

**Question 4:** Our flu vaccination program begins in September, yet the denominator categories begin Oct. 1. Question: Can the Monthly Plan begin in Sept.?

*Yes, you can put in September of 2016 for your plan because that will be captured in the 2016-2017 flu season.*



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**Question 5:** A number of the PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals (PCHs) have a large research component to them. Many times, these are in a different cost center or corporation. These employees may physically be in the same environment as patients and employees or some may never work in the facility. How should a PCH classify or not include these employees?

*Individuals who do not physically work in the hospital during the reporting period of October 1 through March 31 are not be included in the Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Summary Data. However, the CDC does have some additional guidance on payroll systems that maybe useful for facilities. We can send that in writing to facilities if they would like.*

*Some healthcare facilities use multiple payroll systems. For example, certain individuals within a particular facility may be corporate employees paid directly through a corporate payroll while others at the facility are facility employees paid directly through the facility payroll. Healthcare systems using multiple payrolls only count employees of the facilities who are paid directly through the facility payroll. Therefore, corporate employees who are not paid directly through the facility payroll would not be counted in the employee category. However, they could be counted in the licensed independent practitioner or other contract personnel category, if they meet those definitions.*

*If a facility is part of a system that has only one payroll for the entire system, then the facility would count all personnel on that payroll in the employee category, as long as they work in a facility during the reporting period. Cost centers that are part of the same payroll are also considered to be on a single payroll for the purposes of defining employee healthcare personnel.*



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**Question 6:**      **Pharmacists were used as an example of a possible type of contract employee. However, in most (if not all) of the PCHs, they are employees. So, I just wanted to clarify that if they receive a paycheck from the PCH that they are an employee and should be included?**

*Yes, if they receive a direct paycheck from the facility, then they should be counted in that employee category. On slide 32 there is an example of a contract employee who is a pharmacist paid through a mechanism that is outside of the hospital. Otherwise, if an individual is paid directly by the hospital, they are employees.*