South Carolina creates REDCap database for multidisciplinary HAI program functionality

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CATEGORY: Nationally Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

South Carolina identified inconsistent and inefficient data processes in their Healthcare-Associated Infectious (HAI) program and are implementing a new platform to streamline their workflows and enhance data quality.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) addressed multiple areas within the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) program that needed improved processes and consolidation. Previously, DHEC was using an inconsistent data collection and dissemination model that required a tremendous amount of time and energy to complete.

The "What"

One of DHEC's goals was to improve the data collection and dissemination process and streamline efforts, while also improving the quality of the data they were collecting and analyzing. They identified three distinct HAI program areas they wanted to address and broke the project into three phases to address each need: HAI outbreak response, National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) External Validation and Multidrug-Resistant Organism (MDRO) Response. They selected this approach based on the priority of events and which program areas needed direct updates as soon

as possible. DHEC has completed Phase 1 of the project and has been successfully using the new REDCap platform for ongoing HAI outbreak investigation documentation.

The "So What"

The REDCap platform ensures data is collected and stored in its completeness, creating consistency across different investigations where nuanced scenarios are highly likely to erupt. DHEC has built in helpful contributions to the platform in hopes of addressing some of these scenarios as they arise. Using branching logic allows the expected response strategy to change in real-time, depending on the information present.

The "Now What"

DHEC is only a little over one-third of the way complete with this project, and it will be ongoing for the next years to come. They currently are progressing on Phase 2. So far, they have been able to construct a skeleton template of the ongoing construction, using examples and templates provided by state health department partners across the country. A benefit of using REDCap is that as DHEC's needs change, edits can easily be made without altering the core function of the tool.

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SUBMITTED APRIL 2023