NAUSP Quality Assurance

The aim of NAUSP Occupied Bed Day (OBD) Quality Assurance activities is to ensure all data comply with NAUSP definitions to ensure accuracy in the reports generated and the data used as part of the national surveillance of antimicrobial use for AURA. This fact sheet provides an outline of the Quality Assurance (QA) processes conducted by the NAUSP team.

Every six months (after submission of June and December data each year) hospitals are flagged for Quality Assurance (QA) and participants are asked to check and then send their completed Occupied Bed Day (OBD) template to the NAUSP team.

The NAUSP team undertakes verification of OBD figures uploaded in the portal, cross-checking drug usage and OBD inclusions and identification of inconsistencies in data.

In the period January to June 2019, 143 errors were identified during the QA process, representing a 17% error rate. This highlights the importance of continuing this process to ensure data accuracy and integrity, and benchmarking between hospitals can occur with confidence. Real examples are shown as below:

The Quality Assurance Process

Step 1: OBD figures

The OBD figures in the contributor hospital’s completed OBD template should match the numbers entered into the NAUSP Portal. For example this contributor entered the ICU data in the non-ICU field and vice versa:
Step 2: Dispensing data by number and ward

The NAUSP team amalgamates six months of dispensing data in MS Excel and produces a table containing the number of antimicrobial products dispensed to each ward per month. These are then reviewed to check for missing data.

Ward data included in error can also be identified by reconciling this table against the ward inclusions in the OBD spreadsheet.

Step 3: Dispensing data feasibility

The data are also scrutinised to check that the quantities of antimicrobials dispensed are feasible. If a member of the NAUSP team is suspicious that a quantity is erroneous they will contact the NAUSP user at the hospital involved.
For example if we identify a quantity that is an order of magnitude less or more than other months (see quantity highlighted above) the NAUSP team will alert the relevant NAUSP user.

The NAUSP team also checks that antifungals, antivirals and topical antimicrobials are included in data submissions (as well as antibacterials).

How data anomalies are resolved

NAUSP will communicate directly with contributors in all cases where data appears to be incorrect or missing. If discrepancies are found, the NAUSP team works with contributors to resolve any errors and update the information in the Portal prior to reporting.