Educational Brief

Common Formats for Event Reporting – Nursing Home Version 1.0 Issue 45: September 2019

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released the Common Formats for Event Reporting – Nursing Home Version 1.0 (CFER-NH V1.0) on September 9, 2019. The Patient Safety Organization Privacy Protection Center (PSOPPC) is now accepting data on patient/resident safety concerns submitted by AHRQ-listed Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) and vendors submitting on behalf of PSOs using CFER-NH V1.0.

Common Formats for Event Reporting

AHRQ leads the development of Common Formats for Event Reporting (CFER) to enable the standardized collection and aggregation of data on healthcare events that adversely impact the well-being of patients. This activity is authorized by the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act (2005) and Final Rule (2008), which established the goal of building a national learning system to improve patient safety. Data collected by PSOs and submitted to the PSOPPC using the CFER are anonymized to protect contributors and can be aggregated at the national level to support the national learning system.

Until now, AHRQ had released CFER for the hospital and community pharmacy settings. The release of CFER for nursing homes constitutes a new setting for the capture of patient/resident safety concerns.

Nursing Home Version 1.0

CFER-NH V1.0 is a tool for reporting adverse events involving patients/residents in nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities. Data collected using CFER-NH V1.0 can be aggregated across nursing facilities and nationally to inform improvements to the care provided to this population. CFER-NH V1.0 enables providers to collect and report data on the patient/resident safety concerns described in table 1.

Table 1. CFER-NH V1.0 Patient/Resident Safety Concerns

Patient/Resident Safety Concern	Description
Incidents	Patient/resident safety events that reach the patient/resident, whether or not the patient/resident is harmed
Near misses (or close calls)	Patient/resident safety events that do not reach the patient/resident
Unsafe conditions	Any circumstance that increases the probability of a patient/resident safety event

CFER-NH V1.0 consists of a Generic module and several Event-specific modules to capture detailed information on adverse events and impacted patients/residents. These modules include structured elements to standardize data collection and narrative elements to capture additional event details.

Development of CFER-NH V1.0

The development of CFER-NH V1.0 began with the creation of Event Descriptions to define clinically meaningful event concepts applicable to the nursing home setting. AHRQ developed an Event Description for the Generic module that outlines the general information to report about the event or Unsafe condition. Below is a sample of the information outlined in the Generic Event Description:

- Type of patient/resident safety concern
- Type of event that occurred in the nursing home
- Patient/resident population impacted by the event (Incident only)
- Severity and duration of harm sustained by the patient/resident (Incident only)
- Factors that contributed to the occurrence of the event (Incident and Near miss only)

Table 2 lists the event types that can be reported using CFER-NH V1.0, as outlined in the Generic Event Description, and indicates the event types for which AHRQ developed an event-specific Event Description.

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Table 2. CFER-NH V1.0 Event Types

Event Types	Event-specific Event Description Available
Abuse or neglect	
Accident (e.g., scalding, choking, and/or restraint related)	
Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including Health Information Technology (HIT)	X
Elopement	
Fall	X
Healthcare-associated Infection	
Medication or Other Substance	X
Pressure Injury	X

AHRQ developed a Users' Guide and Glossary to explain CFER-NH V1.0 to reporters and to define terms used in CFER-NH V1.0 documentation.

AHRQ developed technical specifications to standardize the collection and reporting of nursing home-related adverse events. The concepts included in the Event Descriptions were converted to data elements and answer values to enable the collection of data in a structured format. In CFER-NH V1.0, all data elements pertinent to an event type must be completed in order for the PSOPPC to accept the patient/resident safety event record. The following technical specification documents are available for CFER-NH V1.0:

- Data Dictionary – Describes the metadata associated with each CFER-NH V1.0 data element and answer value and provides general reporting guidance.
- Flow Charts – Outline the appropriate logic for reporting patient/resident safety events using CFER-NH V1.0.
- Resources Workbook – Provides information on all CFER-NH V1.0 data elements and answer values and specifies requirements for the successful submission of event reports.
- Implementation Guide – Provides instructions for creating reports in the preferred Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
- CDA XML Samples – Provide examples of the required CDA XML file format using fictitious event scenarios.

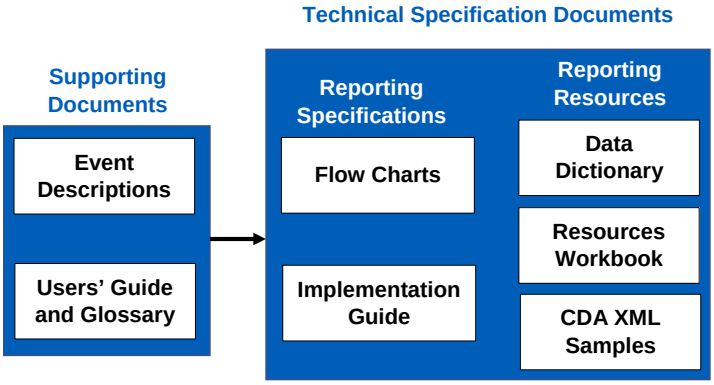
Use of CFER-NH V1.0

CFER-NH V1.0 documents are grouped into the following categories:

- Supporting documents: Introduce CFER-NH V1.0 to reporters and define the adverse events reportable to the PSOPPC (Event Descriptions, Users' Guide and Glossary).
- Technical specifications documents: Provide the information necessary to properly collect data and submit reports to the PSOPPC, and include reporting specifications and reporting resources.

Reporters using CFER-NH V1.0 to capture adverse events should first review the supporting documents to understand CFER-NH V1.0 and the reportable event types. Reporters should then review the Flow Charts and the Implementation Guide to obtain the necessary guidance for developing the structure to capture relevant information and successfully submit reports to the PSOPPC. Reporters should reference the Data Dictionary, Resources Workbook, and CDA XML Samples for additional guidance and examples to support their data collection and reporting efforts. Figure 1 shows the CFER-NH V1.0 documents developed to facilitate the reporting of adverse events.

Figure 1. CFER-NH V1.0 Supporting and Technical Specification Documents



Technical Assistance

Contact the PSOPPC Help Desk for additional technical assistance via email at support@psoppc.org, or via phone at (866) 571-7712, Mon-Fri, 9am – 5:30pm, ET. You can also submit an inquiry via our Contact Us page on the PSOPPC website.

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