



1275 K Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005-4006
Phone: 202/789-1890
Fax: 202/789-1899
apicinfo@apic.org
www.apic.org

**[Healthcare-Associated Infection Provisions in
H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
Known as the Merged Senate Health Reform Bill](#)**

Click on the headline above to see the full text of H.R. 3590.

- Hospital Value-based Purchasing Program (Title III, Section 3001, beginning P. 621) would set incentive payments under the Medicare program for hospitals that meet certain performance standards, beginning in FY 2013. Healthcare-associated infections (as measured by the prevention metrics and targets established in the HHS Action Plan) would be included among initial set of measures.
- National Pilot Program on Payment Bundling (Title III, Section 3023, beginning P. 751) would establish a pilot program for integrated care during an episode of care and post-acute care services. Quality measures would include:
 - Reducing rates of avoidable hospital readmissions; and
 - Incidence of healthcare-acquired infections.
- Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety would be established within AHRQ (Title III, Subtitle F, Section 3501, beginning P. 1053).
 - Functions would include identifying, measuring, and improving organizational, human, or other causative factors, including those related to the culture and system design of a healthcare organization, that contribute to the success and sustainability of specific quality improvement and patient safety strategies.
 - Research requirements would include translating evidence into practice recommendations, including practical methods for addressing healthcare-associated infections, including MRSA and VRE infections and other emerging infections, and reducing preventable hospital admissions and readmissions.
- Demonstration projects to address healthcare workforce needs would include core training competencies for personal or home care aides that include infection control (Title V, Section 5507, [core training for home health aides begins P. 1476]).

Status: The Senate has passed the procedural vote necessary to continue debate on the bill. The Senate is expected to begin consideration of the legislation after Thanksgiving.

(November 24, 2009)