

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

How to Resolve PSC Alerts

Unusual Susceptibility Profile (USP)



The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is a surveillance system for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) that includes data collection on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) results for certain reported pathogens. NHSN alerts users when any of the twelve unusual susceptibility profiles (USPs) listed below and further described in the [Unusual Susceptibility Profiles Alert Table](#) are reported. This alert applies to in-plan events only.

1. Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales
2. Carbapenem-intermediate or -resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*
3. Carbapenem-intermediate or -resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
4. Highly Drug-resistant Enterobacterales
5. Highly Drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
6. Highly Drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*
7. Colistin/Polymyxin B-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*
8. Colistin/Polymyxin B-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
9. Daptomycin non-susceptible and Linezolid-resistant *Enterococcus* spp.
10. Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA)
11. Daptomycin non-susceptible and Linezolid-resistant and Vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus*
12. Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus*, coagulase negative (VRSE)

USP Pop-up Message

When a user enters a pathogen's susceptibility testing result into the NHSN application that aligns with one of the unusual susceptibility profiles, upon saving the event, a pop-up message will appear on the screen. The message text will be tailored to the specific profile identified. There are three message types:



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1. Carbapenem-resistant (CR)

USP Alert

YOU HAVE ENTERED A CARBAPENEM-RESISTANT PATHOGEN

- Click here for more information on this alert: [details](#)
- Review data entry and if error make correction.
- If no data entry error, contact laboratory to confirm results.
- If confirmed by your laboratory, this may be reportable to public health in your area.

For additional information see: cdc.gov/hai

If confirmed as a correct result, press CONFIRM

To correct the result, press CANCEL to return to the data entry screen

To exit and save without confirming or correcting, press OK (this will save the record and generate an alert)



CONFIRM

CANCEL

OK

2. Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA)

USP Alert

YOU HAVE ENTERED A VRSA

- Click here for more information on this alert: [details](#)
- Review data entry and if error make correction.
- If no data entry error, contact laboratory to confirm results.
- If confirmed by your laboratory, save isolate and notify public health in your area.

For additional information see: cdc.gov/hai

If confirmed as a correct result, press CONFIRM

To correct the result, press CANCEL to return to the data entry screen

To exit and save without confirming or correcting, press OK (this will save the record and generate an alert)



CONFIRM

CANCEL

OK

3. Other

USP Alert

YOU HAVE ENTERED AN UNUSUAL ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT PATHOGEN

- Click here for more information on this alert: [details](#)
- Review data entry and if error make correction.
- If no data entry error, contact laboratory to confirm results.
- If confirmed by your laboratory, this may be reportable to public health in your area.

For additional information see: cdc.gov/hai

If confirmed as a correct result, press CONFIRM

To correct the result, press CANCEL to return to the data entry screen

To exit and save without confirming or correcting, press OK (this will save the record and generate an alert)



CONFIRM

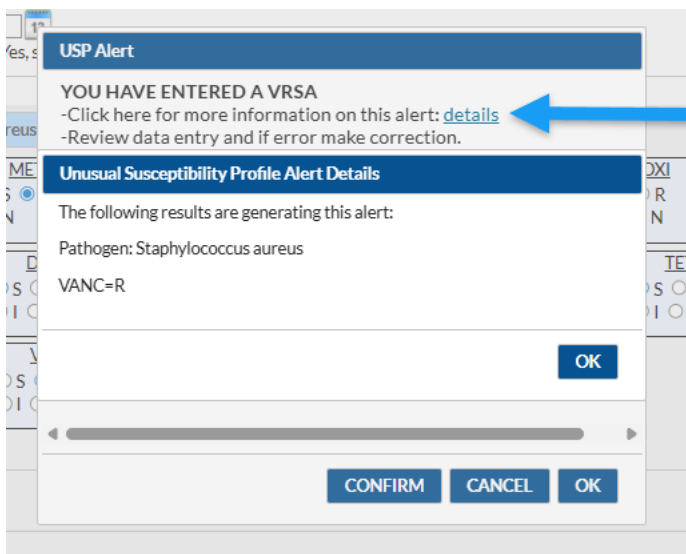
CANCEL

OK

When a pop-up message appears, the user will have the ability to select one of the following:

- **Confirm:** Verify the data entry as accurate by selecting **Confirm**. This will complete the **Save** process.
- **Cancel:** Return to the event susceptibility data entry screen by choosing **Cancel**. The user can review and amend incorrect data entry, if necessary.
- **OK:** Acknowledge the notification by selecting **OK**. This selection will enable the user to complete the **Save** process without verifying or editing the data entry. This will generate an alert on the Alerts screen. The alert will appear under the Alert tab labeled “Unusual Susceptibility Profile (USP)” and will display the alert message type and the USP identified. The user will have the ability to return to the event susceptibility data entry screen at a later point in time, directly from the USP Alert tab. The alert will remain until the USP is verified to be accurate by selecting **Confirm** or amending the data entry such that a USP is no longer identified.

When an Unusual Susceptibility Profile Alert pop-up message appears, the user can select the details link to gather additional information.



USP Alert

Include alerts for the following time period:

Beginning: 01/2026 1 Ending: mm/yyyy 1 [Submit](#) [Clear Time Period](#)

Unusual Susceptibility Profile

Events with unusual pathogen susceptibility results.

What are Unusual Susceptibility Profiles?

Patient ID	Event #	Event Type	Event Date	Pathogen	Result Causing Alert	Alert Message Type	Unusual Susceptibility Profile
12345	162673	BSI	01/03/2026	SA	VANC=R	VRSA	VR_SA
22345	162676	UTI	02/06/2026	ACBA	COL=R	OTHER	PR_ACBA

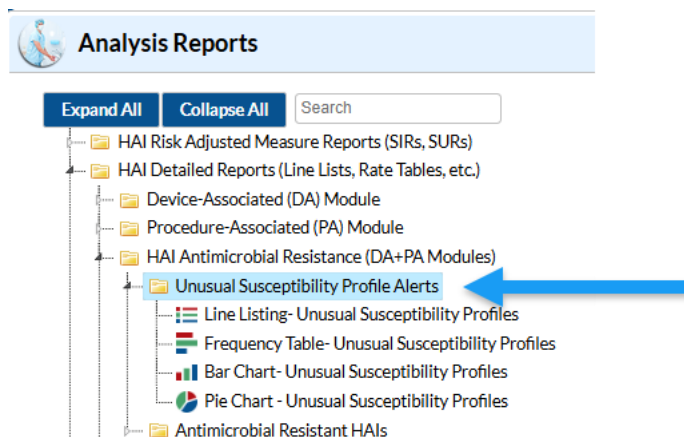
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The USP alert provides an overview of the pathogen and AST results for unconfirmed USPs. Select the event number to open the event record. From here, users can examine the pathogen's susceptibility testing result that aligned with an unusual susceptibility profile or edit the event record.

USP Analysis Reports

Users can generate line listing, frequency table, bar chart, and pie chart reports containing USP data. These reports are available in the following folder pathway: HAI Detailed Reports (Line Lists, Rate Tables, etc.) > HAI Antimicrobial Resistance (DA + PA Modules) > Unusual Susceptibility Profile Alerts.



The report output will contain the type of profile (variable: suscCode), number and location of each profile, and whether the profile has been confirmed to be accurate (variable: suscConfirm) or if the profile is pending verification (variable: suscPend).

Line Listing

National Healthcare Safety Network

Line Listing of All Unusual Susceptibility Profiles (Confirmed and Pending)

As of: April 15, 2026 at 1:26 PM UTC
Date Range: All SUSCEPTIBILITY

Unusual Susceptibility Profile Code=CR_ACBA

Facility Org ID	Patient ID	Date of Birth	Fac Admission Date	Event Date	Event ID	Event Type	Location	Pathogen	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Code	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Confirmed	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Alert
16195	52345	03/02/1955	01/30/2026	04/03/2026	162678	BSI	CMS REHAB	ACBA	CR_ACBA	Y	

Unusual Susceptibility Profile is confirmed

Sorted by eventDate

Data contained in this report were last generated on April 13, 2026 at 7:43 PM UTC to include data beginning January 2023 .

National Healthcare Safety Network

Line Listing of All Unusual Susceptibility Profiles (Confirmed and Pending)

As of: April 15, 2026 at 1:26 PM UTC
Date Range: All SUSCEPTIBILITY

Unusual Susceptibility Profile Code=PR_ACBA

Facility Org ID	Patient ID	Date of Birth	Fac Admission Date	Event Date	Event ID	Event Type	Location	Pathogen	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Code	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Confirmed	Unusual Susceptibility Profile Alert
16195	22345	06/03/2000	01/30/2026	02/06/2026	162676	UTI	CMS REHAB	ACBA	PR_ACBA		Y

Unusual Susceptibility Profile is pending

Frequency Table

National Healthcare Safety Network

Frequency Table of All Unusual Susceptibility Profiles (Confirmed and Pending)

As of: April 15, 2026 at 1:31 PM UTC

Date Range: All SUSCEPTIBILITY

Frequency Percent Row Pct Col Pct	Table of eventType by suscCode				
	eventType(Event Type)	suscCode(Unusual Susceptibility Profile Code)			
		CR_ACBA	PR_ACBA	VR_SA	Total
BSI		1	0	1	2
		33.33	0.00	33.33	66.67
		50.00	0.00	50.00	
		100.00	0.00	100.00	
UTI		0	1	0	1
		0.00	33.33	0.00	33.33
		0.00	100.00	0.00	
		0.00	100.00	0.00	
Total		1	1	1	3
		33.33	33.33	33.33	100.00

Please visit the [Patient Safety Analysis Quick Reference Guides](#) webpage for additional instructions on how to run NHSN analysis reports. Generate data sets prior to running analysis reports.

Unusual Susceptibility Profiles Alert Table

Unusual Susceptibility Profile	Profile Code	Definition	Alert Message Type
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales	CRE	Carbapenem (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, ertapenem, imipenem/relebactam, meropenem/vaborbactam) is Resistant(R)	CR
Highly Drug-Resistant Enterobacterales	HDR_E	Defined as highly drug-resistant if all five drug classes have at least one drug within the class reported as either Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R): - Extended spectrum cephalosporin (cefepime, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, ceftazidime/avibactam, ceftolozane/tazobactam) - Fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin) - Aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin) - Carbapenems (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, ertapenem imipenem/relebactam, meropenem/vaborbactam) - Piperacillin/tazobactam	Other
Colistin/Polymyxin B-resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	PR_PA	Colistin/polymyxin B is Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R)	Other
Carbapenem-intermediate or -resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	CR_PA	Carbapenem (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, imipenem/relebactam, meropenem/vaborbactam) is Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R)	CR
Highly Drug-resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	HDR_PA	Defined as highly drug-resistant if all five drug classes have at least one drug within the class reported as either Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R): - Extended spectrum cephalosporin (cefepime, ceftazidime, ceftazidime/avibactam, ceftolozane/tazobactam) - Fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin) - Aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin) - Carbapenems (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem) - Piperacillin/tazobactam	Other
Colistin/Polymyxin B-resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	PR_ACBA	Colistin/polymyxin B is Resistant(R)	Other

Unusual Susceptibility Profile	Profile Code	Definition	Alert Message Type
Carbapenem-intermediate or -resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	CR_ACBA	Carbapenem (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem) is Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R)	CR
Highly Drug-resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	HDR_ACBA	Defined as highly drug-resistant if all six drug classes have at least one drug within the class reported as either Intermediate(I) or Resistant(R): ■ Extended spectrum cephalosporin (cefepime, ceftazidime, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone) ■ Fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin) ■ Aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin) ■ Carbapenems (imipenem, meropenem, doripenem) ■ Piperacillin/tazobactam ■ Ampicillin/sulbactam	Other
Daptomycin susceptible-dose dependent, resistant or non-susceptible and Linezolid-resistant <i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	HDR_ENTSP	Daptomycin is Susceptible-dose dependent (S-DD), Resistant(R) or Non-Susceptible (NS) AND Linezolid is Resistant(R)	Other
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (VRSA)	VR_SA	Vancomycin is Resistant(R)	VRSA
Daptomycin non-susceptible and Linezolid-resistant and Vancomycin-intermediate <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	HDR_SA	Daptomycin is Non-susceptible (NS) AND Linezolid is Resistant(R) AND Vancomycin is Intermediate(I)	Other
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus</i> , coagulase negative (VRSE)	VR_CSN	Vancomycin is Resistant(R)	Other