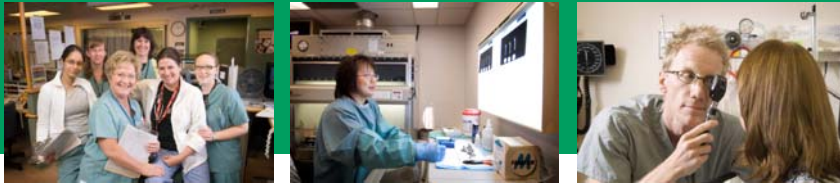


Patient Safety Indicators



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE (C. DIFFICILE)

The *C. difficile* bacterium can be found almost anywhere in the environment for example in soil, water and on most surfaces. It is one of the bacteria that can be commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract of healthy babies, young children and some adults. The bacteria can be found in hospitals, long-term care facilities and child care facility environments.

C. difficile is kept in check by the normal, 'good' bacterial population of the intestine. However, when antibiotics kill the 'good' bacteria in the intestine, the *C. difficile* bacterium can grow out of control. As the *C. difficile* grows, it produces toxins which can damage the bowel and may cause watery diarrhea, fever and abdominal pain and tenderness. Certain people are at increased risk for acquiring *C. difficile*. These risk-factors include a history of antibiotic usage, prolonged hospitalization, increased age and serious underlying illness.

Rates of Hospital Acquired *C. difficile* Infections at HHS

	2009												2010
Georgetown Hospital	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Cases	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rate	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outbreak Designation	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

	2009												2010
Milton District Hospital	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Cases	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outbreak Designation	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

	2009												2010
Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Cases	7	3	10	0	1	1	1	6	1	4	3	0	4
Rate	0.69	0.33	1.00	0.00	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.64	0.11	0.39	0.30	0.00	0.38
Outbreak Designation	Yes*	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Patient Safety Indicators



What is Halton Healthcare Services doing to prevent the spread of C. difficile?

The health and safety of our patients and their families is always our number one priority. We continually track our infection rates and regularly review the measure in place to reduce the transmission of C. difficile within our hospital. Activities to manage C. difficile include:

- Establishment of a multi-disciplinary committee with representation from the Halton Region Public Health Department to monitor the number of cases, evaluate the effectiveness of control measures and respond immediately to any significant changes.
- Implementation of more aggressive environmental cleaning processes which includes using sporicidal cleaning agents and Microfibre cloths.
- Introduction of a specialized team to perform isolation room cleaning and an increase in the number of housekeeping staff and supervisors to ensure rooms are cleaned multiple times daily and between patients.
- A significant increase in the number of hand hygiene stations at all our hospitals
- Multiple education sessions for all staff and physicians focusing on early identification, treatment and prevention including new approaches to antibiotic use.
- Introduction of a new hand hygiene eLearning module is mandatory for all clinical staff.
- Continuation of our active infection control and surveillance program.
- Replacement of worn bed and stretcher mattresses and call bell pull cords to ensure more effective cleaning.
- Introduction of a process to use disposable bedpan and commode liners for patients with C.difficile.
- Additional new isolation carts for all HHS hospitals including patient-specific dedicated equipment.
- Ensuring our practices are aligned with the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's (PIDAC) best practice guidelines.
- Developed communication tools to provide education for visitors and patients regarding hospital isolation precautions.
- Expanding the antibiotic stewardship program and hiring a pharmacist dedicated to the program.
- Alignment of our current hand hygiene program with the MOHLTC **Just Clean Your Hands Program** initiatives to deliver healthcare provider education, training and monitoring (regular hand hygiene audits) on the importance of hand hygiene before, during and after patient contact.
- Promoting and participating in the MOHLTC **Clean Hands Protect Lives**, patient education project formally launched in Ontario on October 21st 2008.
- In December 2008, we participated in a review of our C. difficile management strategies by the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. The feedback was positive and supports the measures taken to date and provided additional suggestions for further refinement.
- **Just Clean Your Hands** training and education is underway.

Cases

The number of new hospital acquired C. difficile infections will be reported on a monthly basis.

Infection Rate per 1,000 Patient Days

The C. difficile infection rate is calculated as a rate per 1,000 patient days. The total patient days represents the sum of the number of days during which services were provided to all inpatients, over one year of age, during the given time period.

Rates in Smaller Facilities

The smaller the facility, the greater the rates will vary — this is because a change in even one case in a small facility will cause the rate to go up or down considerably.

Target Rate

The target rate is not currently available but it is anticipated that this will be established by the MOHLTC for hospitals of comparable size in the near future.