

Patient Safety Indicators



Central-Line Associated Blood Stream Infection

What is a Central-Line Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLI)

When a patient requires long-term access to medication or fluids through an intravenous, a central line or catheter is put into a large vein in the neck, chest or groin. A central-line associated blood stream infection may occur when this catheter or line gets infected. This can happen when bacteria and/or fungi grow in the line and spread to the patient's blood stream. The bacteria can come from a variety of places (e.g., skin, wounds, environment, etc.), though they most often come from the patient's skin. Central-line associated blood stream associated infections are treated with antibiotics.

Critically ill patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) are more prone to developing infections because of their severe illness and compromised immune systems. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has asked that CLI bloodstream infection rates in ICUs be publicly reported because this is where the majority of patients have central lines.

Central-Line Infections (CLI) Indicator

The number of Central-Line Infection (CLI) cases and rates are being publicly reported on a quarterly basis by each eligible hospital site. During this reporting period, Georgetown Hospital's Close Observation Unit (Intensive Care Unit) did not have any patients with Central Lines. Therefore, its data is not applicable.

Central Line Infections at HHS

CLI Case:

Only central line associated blood stream infections that occur 48 hours or more after insertion and in a hospitalized ICU patient are being publicly reported.

CLI Rate

The CLI rate is the number of ICU patients (18 years and older) with a new CLI per 1,000 central line days. Central line days are the total number of days a central line was used in ICU patients who are 18 years and older.

	Oct. - Dec. 2009		Jan. - Mar. 2010		Apr. - June 2010	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Georgetown Hospital	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Milton District Hospital	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	2	3.45	0	0.00	0	0.00

Prevention of Central Line Infections

Our healthcare providers at HHS follow 'best practices' on how to prevent bacteria from entering into a central line. These include:

- Practicing careful and diligent hand hygiene.
- Using a skin cleanser called chlorhexidine to clean the skin in preparation for inserting the catheter.
- Checking entry site for signs of infection with every dressing change.
- Using maximal barrier protection during line insertions and for those assisting including a full body drape for patients.
- The introduction of new pre-packaged 'kit or tray' prepared for physicians who insert central lines which provides all the necessary supplies needed in one easy-to-access location.
- Checking the line every day for signs of infection and replacing the line as needed.
- Prompt removal of the catheter as soon as possible.

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