

Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*)

Clostridium difficile is a common bacterium that is found in the environment and occurs naturally in some people. When *C. difficile* damages the bowel and causes diarrhea, it is known as *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI).

C. difficile can grow and cause infection when antibiotics kill the 'good' bacteria in the intestine. As the *C. difficile* grows, it produces toxins which can damage the bowel and cause watery diarrhea and abdominal pain. Risk factors for developing CDI include a history of antibiotic usage, prolonged hospitalization, increased age and serious underlying illness.

At Halton Healthcare, we closely monitor and track our infection rates. Every case of *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) that originates within the hospital is investigated.

Rates of Hospital Acquired *C. difficile* Infections at Halton Healthcare

	2018										2019	
Georgetown Hospital	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Cases	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	0	<5	<5	<5
Rate per 1000 patient days	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.46	0.87	0.53

	2018										2019	
Milton District Hospital	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Cases	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	0	<5	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 patient days	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00

	2018										2019	
Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Cases	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	0
Rate per 1000 patient days	0.08	0.23	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.31	0.07	0.00	0.15	0.07	0.00

How is Halton Healthcare working to keep *C.difficile* rates low?

Our current measures to prevent hospital associated infections are:

- Regular meetings of a multidisciplinary *C. difficile* committee with representation from the Halton Region Public Health Department
- Aggressive environmental cleaning processes using sporicidal cleaning agents, microfibre cloths, specialized room cleaning and environmental cleaning audits
- A proactive Antibiotic Stewardship Program to provide education and review antibiotics used in the hospital
- Widespread use of Hand Hygiene dispensers throughout Halton Healthcare
- A Hand Hygiene Program, which includes a *Just Clean Your Hands* education program for healthcare providers, and regular monitoring of hand hygiene through an auditing process
- Infection Prevention and Control education sessions for staff and physicians on the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of this infection
- Close monitoring of our CDI rates and the effectiveness of our strategies in the organization's Quality Improvement Plan.

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.