



AMRIC
(Antimicrobial Resistance Infection prevention Control)
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04th November 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By email to: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 52524/25

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the rate of new cases of hospital acquired infections, by infection type, by location, as of 30 September for each year 2023 to 2025

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Infection Prevention and Control

A range of comprehensive Infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are implemented throughout our hospitals (and the wider health service) to prevent / reduce the incidence of healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs). These measures aim to keep patients, staff and visitors safe from infection and include;

- **Practicing and Promoting Good Hand Hygiene:** Good hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of infection. This is important, not only for healthcare workers, but for patients and visitors too.
- **Infection Prevention and Control Teams:** Hospitals have specialist infection prevention and control (IPC) teams whose role it is to promote and monitor IPC practice, implement IPC guidance/protocols, monitor and respond to infections, provide staff training and provide IPC advice.
- **Clean environment:** Strict established protocols for cleaning hospital environments and equipment are in place.
- **Antibiotic Stewardship:** Doctors, nurses, and hospital pharmacists collaborate to use antibiotics appropriately to prevent the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (super bugs).

These steps help mitigate HCAIs; it is difficult to eliminate them completely as patients who are already ill and have weakened immune systems are at increased risk of infection. Following established IPC protocols and procedures and adhering to good IPC practices (as a staff member, visitor or patient) is vitally important and reinforced consistently in our hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Clare Rock
HSE Deputy Clinical Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control



Rate of new cases of hospital-acquired *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection/ 10,000 bed days used (BDU)

Data Source: HSE Business Information Unit

Indicator	Definition / Description
Clinical definition: Hospital-acquired <i>S. aureus</i> bloodstream infection	For the purposes of this return a <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> blood stream infection is considered as hospital-acquired within the reporting hospital if <i>S.aureus</i> is isolated from a blood culture taken 48 hours or longer after the patient was admitted to the reporting hospital.

Health Region		2023 calendar year											
		Quarter 1 2023			Quarter 2 2023			Quarter 3 2023			Quarter 4 2023		
		Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sept-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
HSE Dublin & Midlands	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.0
HSE Dublin & North East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.4	0.7	1.0	1.0
HSE Dublin & South East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.7	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.4	1.1	1.2
HSE Mid West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.0	3.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.4
HSE South West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.2
HSE West & North West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.0	0.8	0.2
National Total (All Health Regions)	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.9

Health Region		2024 calendar year											
		Quarter 1 2024			Quarter 2 2024			Quarter 3 2024			Quarter 4 2024		
		Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sept-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
HSE Dublin & Midlands	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.8
HSE Dublin & North East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.4	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.6	1.3
HSE Dublin & South East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4
HSE Mid West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.1	2.3	0.4	1.5	0.7	0.0	0.4	1.4
HSE South West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.2	1.5	0.7	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.5	0.5
HSE West & North West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.0	1.2
National Total (All Health Regions)	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9

Health Region		2025 calendar year								
		Quarter 1 2025			Quarter 2 2025			Quarter 3 2025		
		Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sept-25
HSE Dublin & Midlands	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.8
HSE Dublin & North East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.9	1.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.7	0.7
HSE Dublin & South East	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3
HSE Mid West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.3	1.5	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0
HSE South West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.9	0	1.0
HSE West & North West	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.7
National Total (All Health Regions)	<i>S. aureus</i> BSI - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6



Rate of new cases of hospital-associated *C. difficile* infection/ 10,000 bed days used (BDU)

Data Source: HSE Business Information Unit

Indicator	Definition / Description
Clinical Definition: Hospital-associated new cases of C. difficile infection (CDI)	Each case from the reporting hospital must meet all criteria (1-3) below
	1. CDI case
	A patient two years or older, to whom one or more of the following criteria applies:
	• Diarrhoeal* stools or toxic megacolon, with either a positive laboratory assay for C. difficile toxin A (TcdA) and / or toxin B (TcdB) in stools or a toxin producing C. difficile organism detected in stool via culture or other means.
	• Pseudomembraneous colitis (PMC) revealed by lower gastrointestinal, endoscopy.
	• Colonic histopathology characteristic of C. difficile infection (with or without diarrhoea) on a specimen obtained during endoscopy, colectomy or autopsy.
	*Diarrhoea is defined as three or more loose/watery bowel movements that take up the shape of their container (which are unusual or different for the patient) in a 24 hour period.
	2. New CDI Case - A first positive result that fits the criteria above or if the patient has previously had a positive result more than eight weeks prior and symptoms had resolved
	3. Hospital - associated CDI (healthcare associated CDI - this hospital) A CDI case with either onset of symptoms at least 48 hours following admission to the reporting hospital or with onset of symptoms in the community within 4 weeks following discharge from the reporting hospital

		2023 calendar year											
		Quarter 1 2023			Quarter 2 2023			Quarter 3 2023			Quarter 4 2023		
Health Region	Performance indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sept-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
HSE Dublin & Midlands	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.3	1.8	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.4	0.8	2.4	1.7	1.2	1.6	1.2
HSE Dublin & North East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.1	1.1	2.3	3.3	2.6	3.7
HSE Dublin & South East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	0.9	1.8	0.9	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.9	2.1	3.0	2.8
HSE Mid West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.3	2.4	4.7	3.0	3.3	4.9	3.3	1.8	3.4	2.5	1.5	4.9
HSE South West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.7	0.5	2.4	1.3	1.7	1.3	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.4	2.7
HSE West & North West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.0	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.1	1.3	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.2
National Total (All Health Regions)	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.7

		2024 calendar year											
		Quarter 1 2024			Quarter 2 2024			Quarter 3 2024			Quarter 4 2024		
Health Region	Performance indicator	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sept-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
HSE Dublin & Midlands	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.8	1.3	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	3.4	1.4	1.3
HSE Dublin & North East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.9	2.2	2.0	3.2	2.1	1.8	2.4	1.6	3.0	3.1	1.7	3.1
HSE Dublin & South East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.6	2.0	2.5	2.8
HSE Mid West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.1	1.5	4.6	2.9	3.5	3.0	3.2	5.2	4.1	3.1	1.8	2.8
HSE South West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.7	2.5	2.8	2.4	3.6	2.3	1.9	1.2	3.7	1.7	2.7	5.1
HSE West & North West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.7	2.7	2.1	2.0	4.0	2.7	2.9	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.9
National Total (All Health Regions)	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.3	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.6	1.8	2.7

		2025 calendar year								
		Quarter 1 2025			Quarter 2 2025			Quarter 3 2025		
Health Region	Performance indicator	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sept-25
HSE Dublin & Midlands	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.3	1.7	1.5	2.3	3.5	1.8
HSE Dublin & North East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.0	2.2	2.3	3.6	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.3
HSE Dublin & South East	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.4	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.9
HSE Mid West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.0	2.6	2.1	2.5	5.1	3.5	2.7	2.0	2.1
HSE South West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.4	3.3	2.3	3.4	3.0	2.0	3.1	3.0	2.9
HSE West & North West	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	3.3	1.6	3.0	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.5
National Total (All Health Regions)	C. difficile - Rate per 10,000 BDU	2.6	2.2	2.4	3.1	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.2

