



National Public Health  
Service for Wales

Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cenedlaethol Cymru

Infection and Communicable Disease Service  
Gwasanaeth Heintiau a Chlefydau Trosglwyddadwy

Welsh Healthcare Associated Infections Programme (WHAIP)  
Rhaglen Heintiau sy'n Gysylltiedig a Gofal Iechyd Cymru (RHGGIC)

# All Wales

  

## Mandatory

### *Clostridium difficile*

## Surveillance

**01/01/05–31/12/2005**

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## Introduction

Mandatory surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* in inpatients aged over 65 with diarrhoea in Welsh hospitals was introduced by the Welsh Assembly Government in January 2005. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> report of the surveillance scheme and covers the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

The report contains the following:

1. Tabulated numbers of *C. difficile* and rates per 1000 admissions by NHS Trust in Wales for the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.
2. Tabulated numbers of *C. difficile* and rates per 1000 admissions by patient age and gender for the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.
3. Tabulated numbers of *C. difficile* and rates per 1000 admissions for the 10 hospital specialties with the highest number of reports of *C. difficile* for the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.
4. Monthly rates of *C. difficile* per 1000 admissions for all Wales and for individual Welsh Trusts presented in the form of statistical process control charts (explained in the notes for interpretation) for the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

The National *C. difficile* Standards Group Report to the Department of Health (Journal of Hospital Infection, Vol. 56 (suppl. 1), February 2004) states that the diagnosis of *C. difficile* Associated Diarrhoea (CDAD) requires the detection of *C. difficile* toxins in diarrhoeal stool samples. Therefore, surveillance in Wales is restricted to *C. difficile* in inpatients with diarrhoea. However, very few laboratories are currently able to provide us with information on faecal consistency. To ensure comparability between sites, data from all positive *C. difficile* results from inpatients aged over 65 regardless of faecal consistency, have been presented.

The total *C. difficile* rate per 1000 admissions in inpatients aged over 65 in Wales for the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005 was 14.84, ranging from 6.08 to 34.10. There was no significant difference in the rates in males and females and rates increased with increasing age. The highest numbers of *C. difficile* were reported from the specialties of general medicine and geriatric medicine. In the 10 specialties with the highest numbers of *C. difficile*, the highest rates were in nephrology (75.32) and geriatric medicine (53.28).

The most recently published data from the mandatory *C. difficile* reporting scheme for hospital Trusts in England are for 2005. Rates for English hospital Trusts are not directly comparable with Welsh data because the English surveillance scheme covers *C. difficile* results from the community as well as from hospital inpatients and the denominator data used is bed days in the 65+ age group. Bed day data are not available by patient age group for Wales, therefore admissions in the over 65s have been used as denominator data. The English report is available at: [http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/hai/Mandatory\\_Surveillance\\_of\\_Healthcare\\_Associated\\_Infection\\_Report\\_2006.pdf](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Surveillance_of_Healthcare_Associated_Infection_Report_2006.pdf). Rates for individual English trusts are available at:















