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WALES

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Public Health  
Wales

# **OUTBREAK SURVEILLANCE**

## **2011**

## **ALL WALES**

## All Wales

### Outbreak Results for 2011:

| Year                         | Month Outbreak Identified | Organism/Disease      | Total Outbreaks |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2011                         | January                   | Clostridium difficile | 3               |
| 2011                         | January                   | D&V (suspected viral) | 6               |
| 2011                         | January                   | Norovirus             | 17              |
| 2011                         | January                   | Rota virus            | 1               |
| <b>January 2011 Total:</b>   |                           |                       | <b>27</b>       |
| 2011                         | February                  | Clostridium difficile | 1               |
| 2011                         | February                  | D&V (suspected viral) | 16              |
| 2011                         | February                  | Norovirus             | 25              |
| 2011                         | February                  | Rota virus            | 1               |
| <b>February 2011 Total:</b>  |                           |                       | <b>43</b>       |
| 2011                         | March                     | Clostridium difficile | 3               |
| 2011                         | March                     | D&V (suspected viral) | 22              |
| 2011                         | March                     | Norovirus             | 37              |
| <b>March 2011 Total:</b>     |                           |                       | <b>62</b>       |
| 2011                         | April                     | Clostridium difficile | 2               |
| 2011                         | April                     | D&V (suspected viral) | 10              |
| 2011                         | April                     | Norovirus             | 12              |
| <b>April 2011 Total:</b>     |                           |                       | <b>24</b>       |
| 2011                         | May                       | Clostridium difficile | 1               |
| 2011                         | May                       | D&V (suspected viral) | 11              |
| 2011                         | May                       | Norovirus             | 5               |
| 2011                         | May                       | Scabies               | 1               |
| <b>May 2011 Total:</b>       |                           |                       | <b>18</b>       |
| 2011                         | June                      | Clostridium difficile | 1               |
| 2011                         | June                      | D&V (suspected viral) | 14              |
| 2011                         | June                      | Norovirus             | 5               |
| <b>June 2011 Total:</b>      |                           |                       | <b>20</b>       |
| 2011                         | July                      | Clostridium difficile | 2               |
| 2011                         | July                      | D&V (suspected viral) | 7               |
| 2011                         | July                      | Norovirus             | 2               |
| <b>July 2011 Total:</b>      |                           |                       | <b>11</b>       |
| 2011                         | August                    | Clostridium difficile | 1               |
| 2011                         | August                    | D&V (suspected viral) | 2               |
| 2011                         | August                    | Norovirus             | 3               |
| <b>August 2011 Total:</b>    |                           |                       | <b>6</b>        |
| 2011                         | September                 | Clostridium difficile | 1               |
| 2011                         | September                 | D&V (suspected viral) | 1               |
| <b>September 2011 Total:</b> |                           |                       | <b>2</b>        |
| 2011                         | October                   | D&V (suspected viral) | 4               |
| 2011                         | October                   | Norovirus             | 2               |
| <b>October 2011 Total:</b>   |                           |                       | <b>6</b>        |
| 2011                         | November                  | Clostridium difficile | 1               |

|                             |          |                       |            |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| 2011                        | November | D&V (suspected viral) | 6          |
| 2011                        | November | Norovirus             | 10         |
| 2011                        | November | Other                 | 1          |
| <b>November 2011 Total:</b> |          |                       | <b>18</b>  |
| 2011                        | December | Clostridium difficile | 1          |
| 2011                        | December | D&V (suspected viral) | 17         |
| 2011                        | December | Norovirus             | 24         |
| <b>December 2011 Total:</b> |          |                       | <b>42</b>  |
| <b>Total Outbreaks</b>      |          |                       | <b>279</b> |

**NB** 57 of these outbreaks were not reported via the web based outbreak database. Minimum data was provided to WHAIP to add to the report.

### Report Commentary:

- A surveillance scheme for outbreaks / incidents of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) has been operational in Wales since 1997. Initially this was a voluntary scheme, but has been mandatory since July 2003 (Welsh Health Circular (WHC) 2003 (43)).
- Health Boards in Wales are required to report the occurrence of any outbreaks or incidents of HCAI in acute and community hospitals according the definitions shown as an appendix at the end of this summary.
- Data for outbreaks identified in 2011 in Wales are presented in this report.
- A total of 279 outbreaks / incidents of HCAI were reported to the surveillance scheme during 2011. This compares to 440 outbreaks reported in 2010.
- The majority of outbreaks / incidents reported were related to gastrointestinal illnesses such as Norovirus, Diarrhoea & Vomiting (D&V) and *Clostridium difficile*.
- It is clear that diarrhoeal illnesses, in particular outbreaks of Norovirus in hospitals are a significant burden to the Health Boards in Wales.
- Norovirus) is otherwise known as “Winter vomiting Disease” and has been associated with major outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting in hospitals across the UK. It is usually brought into hospital from the community, but due to its ability to spread rapidly can cause secondary infections in large numbers of patients and staff within a hospital resulting in significant disruption to services. The fact that this is the most commonly

reported cause of outbreaks / incidents of HCAI in our hospitals in Wales underlines the need to be scrupulous about isolation of cases of diarrhoea and vomiting when admitted from the community and also for visitors to hospitals to avoid visiting when they are symptomatic with diarrhoea and vomiting.

- Please note that the WHAIP team has no way of auditing the outbreak data provided. There may be differences in the interpretation of the outbreak definitions between sites and in distinguishing between a single outbreak spread over multiple locations in the same hospital and multiple different outbreaks occurring in different locations in the hospital at the same time.

## **Outbreak Type – Definitions:**

### Enteric Outbreaks

1. Viral gastroenteritis
  - a. Virological confirmation in 2 or more cases OR
  - b. Clinical diagnosis meeting criteria of Chadwick et al
    - i. Vomiting in 50% or more cases
    - ii. Duration of illness 12-60 hours
    - iii. Incubation period 15-48 hours
    - iv. Staff and patients affected
2. *Clostridium difficile* - associated diarrhoea - "occurrence of two or more related cases over a defined period agreed locally taking account of the background rate"
3. Bacterial gastroenteritis, e.g. Salmonellosis etc ... "occurrence of two or more cases over a defined period agreed locally to be related"

### Other Outbreaks/Incidents

1. Anything deemed an outbreak by ICT
2. Any incident leading to the establishment of a formal OCT
3. Any incident leading to ward closure/admission restriction
4. Any incident leading to patient notification exercise
5. Multiple cases associated with a common source (patient, staff, food/water or environment)

### Infestations

The lodgement, development and reproduction of arthropods on the surface of the body or in the clothing.