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Public Health  
Wales

# **OUTBREAK SURVEILLANCE**

## **2010**

## **ALL WALES**

## All Wales

### Outbreak Results for 2010:

Year	Month Outbreak Identified	Organism/Disease	Total Outbreaks
2010	January	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	10
2010	January	D&V (suspected viral)	62
2010	January	MRSA colonisation	1
2010	January	Norovirus	63
2010	January	Other	2
<b>January 2010 Total:</b>			<b>138</b>
2010	February	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	2
2010	February	Cryptosporidium	1
2010	February	D&V (suspected viral)	33
2010	February	Norovirus	50
2010	February	Rota virus	1
<b>February 2010 Total:</b>			<b>87</b>
2010	March	Campylobacter sp	1
2010	March	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	5
2010	March	D&V (suspected viral)	32
2010	March	Giardia	1
2010	March	Norovirus	50
<b>March 2010 Total:</b>			<b>89</b>
2010	April	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	2
2010	April	D&V (suspected viral)	15
2010	April	MRSA	1
2010	April	Norovirus	22
<b>April 2010 Total:</b>			<b>40</b>
2010	May	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	3
2010	May	D&V (suspected viral)	8
2010	May	Norovirus	5
<b>May 2010 Total:</b>			<b>16</b>
2010	June	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	1
2010	June	D&V (suspected viral)	6
2010	June	Norovirus	6
<b>June 2010 Total:</b>			<b>13</b>
2010	July	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	4
2010	July	D&V (suspected viral)	4
2010	July	MRSA	3
<b>July 2010 Total:</b>			<b>11</b>
2010	August	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	3
2010	August	D&V (suspected viral)	3
2010	August	Norovirus	1
2010	August	Other	1
<b>August 2010 Total:</b>			<b>8</b>
2010	September	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	1

2010	September	Norovirus	2
<b>September 2010 Total:</b>			<b>3</b>
2010	October	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	4
2010	October	D&V (suspected viral)	6
2010	October	Norovirus	2
<b>October 2010 Total:</b>			<b>12</b>
2010	November	Clostridium difficile toxin positive	4
2010	November	D&V (suspected viral)	2
2010	November	Norovirus	2
<b>November 2010 Total:</b>			<b>8</b>
2010	December	D&V (suspected viral)	10
2010	December	Norovirus	5
<b>December 2010 Total:</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>Total outbreaks</b>			<b>440</b>

### 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 to the definitions shown as an appendix at the end of this summary.
- Data for outbreaks identified in 2010 in Wales are presented in this report.
- A total of 440 outbreaks / incidents of HCAI were reported to the surveillance scheme during 2010. This compares to 409 outbreaks reported in 2009.
- 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.