

Health Care Associated Clostridium difficile (C. diff) Infection

What is Clostridium difficile (also known as C.diff.)?

C. difficile are one of many bacteria that can be found in the bowel (gut) and feces of health individuals without illness.

How is C. difficile spread?

C. difficile can be picked up on the hands from exposure to contaminated items and surfaces in the environment and can then be spread to the bowels if uncleaned hands touch the mouth or food that is swallowed. Hand Hygiene and environmental cleaning are very important in preventing the spread of C. difficile in healthcare settings.

What causes C. difficile Infections?

C. difficile can sometimes cause an infection of the bowel usually during or after antibiotic use. Antibiotics kill the good bacteria living in the bowel and allows C. difficile to grow and produce toxins that damage the gut causing mild to severe diarrhea and serious disease.

What are the risk factors for CDI?

Certain people are at increased risk for acquiring CDI. These risk factors include:

- History of antibiotic usage
- Bowel surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Prolonged hospitalization
- Being elderly
- Serious underlying illness or debilitation

What is Healthcare Associated CDI?

A healthcare associated infection is determined when signs and symptoms develop after 72 hours of admission to the hospital OR readmission to hospital within 28 days.

The Healthcare associated CDI rate is the number of cases per 1000 patient days per month. Patients under 1 year of age are not included in the patient day denominator data as C. difficile is part of the normal bowel flora in this age group.

Infection Control Reports

1. Health Care Associated C-difficile – Rate per 1000 patient days

Site	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20
MUMC	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.60	0.27	0.55	0.85	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.37	0.69
HGH	0.29	0.15	0.38	0.30	0.35	0.22	0.07	0.28	0.30	0.24	0.60	0.37	0.36
JHCC	0.16	0.47	0.39	0.40	0.08	0.16	0.08	0.54	0.24	0.18	0.35	0.83	0.46
SPH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WLMH	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.70	0.77

2. Health Care Associated – Cases per site

Site	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20
MUMC	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5
HGH	<5	<5	5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5
JHCC	<5	6	5	5	<5	<5	<5	7	<5	<5	<5	8	5
SPH	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	<5	0	0	0	0
WLMH	0	0	<5	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	0	<5	<5

3. Patient days per site

Site	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20
MUMC	3093	3231	3129	3334	3697	3650	3534	3575	3406	2961	2168	2701	2919
HGH	13624	13504	13307	13380	14197	13565	13738	14223	13211	12694	8384	10673	11180
JHCC	12217	12868	12709	12606	12906	12461	12852	13046	12279	11112	8529	9596	10936
SPH	6713	6944	6960	6747	6917	6700	6886	6845	6353	6762	6380	6571	6385
WLMH	1435	1593	1365	1347	1243	1274	1458	1635	1367	1563	1273	1428	1293