

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 5 February 2024
Title:	Healthcare Associated Infection Report
Responsible Director:	Jennifer Wilson, Nurse Director
Report Author:	Claire Pugh, Senior Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Alison Chandler, Business Manager, Infection Prevention and Control Team

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Discussion

This paper relates to:

- Annual Operational Plan

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This paper provides Board members with:

- The current position against the national Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Standards for infection reductions in *Clostridioides difficile* infection, *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia, and *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia.
- A summary and key learning following cases of hospital acquired *Clostridioides difficile* infection identified within the combined assessment unit (CAU) of University Hospital Ayr.

2.2 Background

The Scottish Government has established national healthcare associated infection (HCAI) standards for infection reductions, and progress with these is monitored by the Healthcare Governance Committee (HGC).

In May 2022 Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) released *Infection Prevention and Control Standards for Health and Adult Social Care Settings*. This document sets out nine standards which organisations should have in place, and which support quality improvement in relation to infection prevention and control. HIS may use these as part of their inspection and assurance arrangements. Our compliance with these standards is reported to the HGC.

The HGC has a priority in 2023-24 on behalf of the Board to focus on receiving evidence of organisational learning and demonstrable improvement, and to ensure national improvement priorities and programmes are delivered locally. The detail in this paper supports assurance in relation to HCAI and infection prevention learning and improvement across the Health Board.

2.3 Assessment

HCAI Standards

Aligns to National IPC Standards (2022)	
Standard 4	Assurance and Monitoring Systems

The Boards current verified position of HCAI standards was reported in detail to the last meeting of the Board and remains unchanged. The detail is therefore not repeated in this report. In summary:

Infection	NHS AA Annual Rate Year Ending March 2023	NHS AA Quarterly Rate April-June 2023	2023-24 Target (cases per 100,000 TOBDs)
<i>Clostridioides difficile</i> Infection	17.1	15.6	13.0
Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia	18.6	22.5	12.4
E coli bacteraemia	36.4	44.1*	34.3

*As previously reported some community data was incorrectly assigned impacting the data for quarter 4 22/23 and quarter 1 23/24. This has been reported to ARHAI, and this revised data appears to show reversion to the mean, following data correction.

A range of actions are in place as part of the annual work plan to drive down the number and rates of these infections. Progress with these actions is reviewed by the Prevention and Control of Infection Committee (PCOIC).

Infection Outbreaks and Incidents

Aligns to National IPC Standards (2022)	
Standard 4	Assurance and Monitoring Systems
Standard 5	Optimising Antimicrobial Use
Standard 6	Infection Prevention and Control Policies, Procedures and Guidelines
Standard 7	Clean and safe care equipment

An outbreak of hospital acquired *Clostridioides difficile* infection was identified within the Combined Assessment Unit (CAU) of University Hospital Ayr in September 2023, involving 3 patients.

Those at most risk of developing CDI include the elderly and immunocompromised, though the primary risk factor is antibiotic treatment within the previous few months. Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors is also a known risk factor.

The outbreak was managed in line with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual, with a Problem Assessment Group (PAG) and Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting to review and control the problem. The outbreak was reported to colleagues at Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associate Infection (ARHAI) Scotland and Scottish Government in accordance with the National Infection prevention and Control Manual. Several areas of good practice and a number of important learning points were identified by the Incident Management Team, including in relation to antimicrobial prescribing.

The summary and key learning from this outbreak was presented and discussed at the PCOIC on 30 November 2023 and at the Antimicrobial Management Group (AMG) on 1 December 2023. The two groups were assured that the outbreak had been managed swiftly and effectively and that key learning had been taken, and agreement was reached in relation to local action to be taken to reduce the risk that these issues occur in the future. These actions and improvements are now being taken forward as a priority.

2.3.1 Quality/patient care

Attainment of the national HCAI standards and compliance with the national IPC Standards (2022) will result in fewer infections in patients and improve patient outcomes and experience.

2.3.2 Workforce

Reductions in HCAI will reduce exposure risk to staff from harmful infections.

2.3.3 Financial

Reductions in HCAI will lead to reduced inpatient lengths of stay and associated, investigation and treatment costs.

2.3.4 Risk assessment/management

The Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) provide clinical teams and managers with risk assessed advice and guidance based on national policy and best practice.

The capacity of the IPCT remains challenged due to a range of factors which is having an impact on routine IPC activity. The mitigating actions in place are minimising the impact, and progress is being made across a range of previously delayed issues

2.3.5 Equality and diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment has not been completed as this is an update report to Board members.

2.3.6 Other impacts

No other impacts to note.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

This is a standing report to the Board.

2.3.8 Route to the meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Prevention and Control of Infection Committee, 30 November 2023
- Healthcare Governance Committee, 15 January 2024

2.4 Recommendation

For discussion. This paper is for discussion and assurance, and provides Board Members with the current position against the national HCAI standards.

Board members are asked to note and discuss

1. The Board's current performance against the national HCAI standards and the anticipated level of challenge in achieving them.
2. The key learning and outcome following an outbreak of hospital acquired *Clostridioides difficile* infection identified within University Hospital Ayr (UHC).