


Island Health Performance Measures

Clostridium Difficile Disease



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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Year to Date Performance | 2.1 | Performance Assessment |  Green |
| Island Health Target | Less than or equal to 2.8 | Performance is within the acceptable range; continue to monitor. | |

What do we measure and why?

Clostridium difficile (*C. diff.*) is a common type of healthcare-associated infectious diarrhea. People can be infected if they touch contaminated surfaces and then touch their mouth. Health care workers can also spread the bacteria to their patients if their hands are contaminated.

This indicator measures the rate of patients acquiring a new *C. diff.* infection while in hospital. It is reported per 10,000 patient days. 'Patient days' is equal to the number of patients in hospital, multiplied by the number of days they spent in hospital (e.g., 2 patients in hospital for 7 days = $2 \times 7 = 14$ patient days).

C. diff. adversely affects patient health and safety, and often leads to longer hospital stays and increased costs. *C. diff.* can be severe, sometimes requires surgery, and in extreme cases can cause death. Tracking *C. diff.* provides ongoing assessment of a hospital's ability to minimize the spread of infection through measures such as proper hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and the judicious use of antibiotics.

What is the target?

Island Health's target is 2.8 or fewer new infections per 10,000 patient days.

Lower rates are better.

How are we doing?

As of September 2023, Island Health's rate of healthcare-associated *C. diff.* was meeting the target.

What actions are we taking?

The Infection Prevention and Control Program has an ongoing *C. diff.* surveillance system. Early detection and intervention allow hospitals to prevent or limit *C. diff.* transmission.