

Infection Prevention & Control Report to Trust Board

Meeting Date – 2nd September 2021

1. Executive Summary

COVID-19

The Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) Team continue to be significantly involved with the management of any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, the continued development of COVID-19 pathways, contact tracing and processes and outbreak management. The IP&C Team are also required to continue to support Independent Sector care homes in the event of any declared outbreaks. As a result of the increased demands upon the Team and within the current IP&C resources, there are challenges in attending to other routine work.

Reduction Targets

The Department of Health for Northern Ireland (NI) has not yet issued new reduction targets for healthcare-associated infections in 2021/22. These targets relate to *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) associated disease, Meticillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia and gram-negative bacteraemia (GNB), specifically *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella species* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Current *C. difficile* Performance

So far this year 36 cases of *C. difficile* have been reported. 19 of the cases are classified as healthcare-acquired or associated as they occurred more than 72 hours after admission to hospital (definition used by the Public Health Agency [PHA]). However, this is not always an accurate predictor of being healthcare-associated. The remainder (17) are classified as community-acquired as the patients presented with symptoms within a 72 hour period after admission.

Current MRSA Bacteraemia Performance

Since the beginning of April 2021 four MRSA bacteraemia cases have been reported. Three are categorised as community-associated as they occurred less than 48 hours after admission to hospital and one is categorised as healthcare-associated as it occurred more than 48 hours after admission to hospital (definition used by the PHA).

Current GNB Performance

As of 23rd August 2021, 15 healthcare-associated GNB cases have been reported.

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Outbreak Management

COVID-19 outbreaks continue to be declared in Trust wards, departments and facilities. The IP&C Team and/ or Occupational Health are supporting the management of these incidents as applicable. Incident meetings are taking place and all IP&C measures have been instigated. Recently affected areas include:

NB: Closure of an outbreak is deemed to be 28 days from the last positive case.

Ward/ Department/ Facility	Date of Commencement	Date of Closure	People Affected
Glenoaks Day Centre, Derry	29/06/2021	16/08/2021	Staff
Ward 21 EOU, Altnagelvin Hospital	04/07/2021	03/08/2021	Patients & Staff
Ward 32 ESU, Altnagelvin Hospital	05/07/2021	12/08/2021	Patients & Staff
Greenfield Residential Home, Strabane	09/07/2021	16/08/2021	Staff
Rectory Field Residential Home, Derry	17/07/2021	16/08/2021	Staff
Ward 1 MSAU, South West Acute Hospital (SWAH)	04/08/2021	Ongoing	Staff
Ward 40, Altnagelvin Hospital	05/08/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Mantlin Court, Kesh	05/08/2021	Ongoing	Residents & Staff
The Cottages Children's Home, Derry	12/08/2021	Ongoing	Residents & Staff
Maybrook Day Centre, Derry	13/08/2021	Ongoing	Clients & Staff
Ralph's Close, Gransha Site	15/08/2021	Ongoing	Residents & Staff
Beechlea Children's Home	23/08/2021	Ongoing	Staff
Ward 42 Altnagelvin	24/08/2021	Ongoing	Patient and Staff

The key learning themes arising from outbreaks are shared for wider learning across the Trust via the Working Safely Together Group and governance arrangements. They are also incorporated into the ECHO Programme.

The IP&C Team are also required to continue to support Independent Sector care homes in the event of any declared outbreaks. There are a significant number of homes affected at present, including:

Care Home	Date PHA Notified	Current Status of Outbreak
The Tilery, Enniskillen	06/07/2021	Ongoing: Active
Longfield Care Home, Eglinton	12/07/2021	Ongoing: Terminal cleaning now
Owen Mor Care Centre, Derry	14/07/2021	Ongoing: Active
Hillcrest, Omagh	16/07/2021	Over
Seven Oaks Housing with Care, Derry	19/07/2021	Over
Silverdale, Castlederg	23/07/2021	Over
Melmount Manor Care Centre, Strabane	26/07/2021	Ongoing: Awaiting terminal clean
Rush Hall, Limavady	28/07/2021	Over
Meadow View, Enniskillen	29/07/2021	Over
Three Rivers Care Centre, Omagh	04/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Slieve Na Mon, Omagh	04/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Harold McCauley House, Omagh	04/08/2021	Ongoing: Awaiting terminal clean
Graan Abbey, Enniskillen	05/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Iona House Supported Living, Strabane	05/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Meadowbank Care Home, Omagh	10/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Culmore Manor Care Centre, Derry	16/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Milverne, Enniskillen	16/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Springlawn, Omagh	17/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Cornfield Care Centre, Limavady	17/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Slieveleague, Tempo	17/08/2021	Ongoing: Active

Silverdale, Castlederg	18/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Gnangara, Enniskillen	18/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Woodmount, Strabane	19/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Edgewater, Derry	19/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Clondermott House, Derry	20/08/2021	Ongoing: Active
Oakleaves Derry	25/08/2021	Ongoing ; Active
Springlawn	25/08/2021	Ongoing : Active

Support to these homes requires an on-site visit by a Senior IP&C Nurse. The IP&C Team are challenged to provide this due to other workload commitments, as well as the limited availability of Senior IP&C Nurses. Independent Sector visits are, therefore, being risk assessed and organised as capacity allows.

COVID-19 Training

The IP&C Team launched a programme of COVID-19 Training sessions commencing in mid-September 2020. Originally the training was delivered through a combination of face-to-face and virtual sessions. The face-to-face sessions were restricted to small groups in order to comply with social distancing requirements. The training is now fully virtual.

As of 23rd August 2021, 67 sessions have taken place and a total of 1790 staff have attended. That is 15.79% of the total number of staff who require training (approximately 11,334 people).

Further sessions will be planned for the remainder 2021.

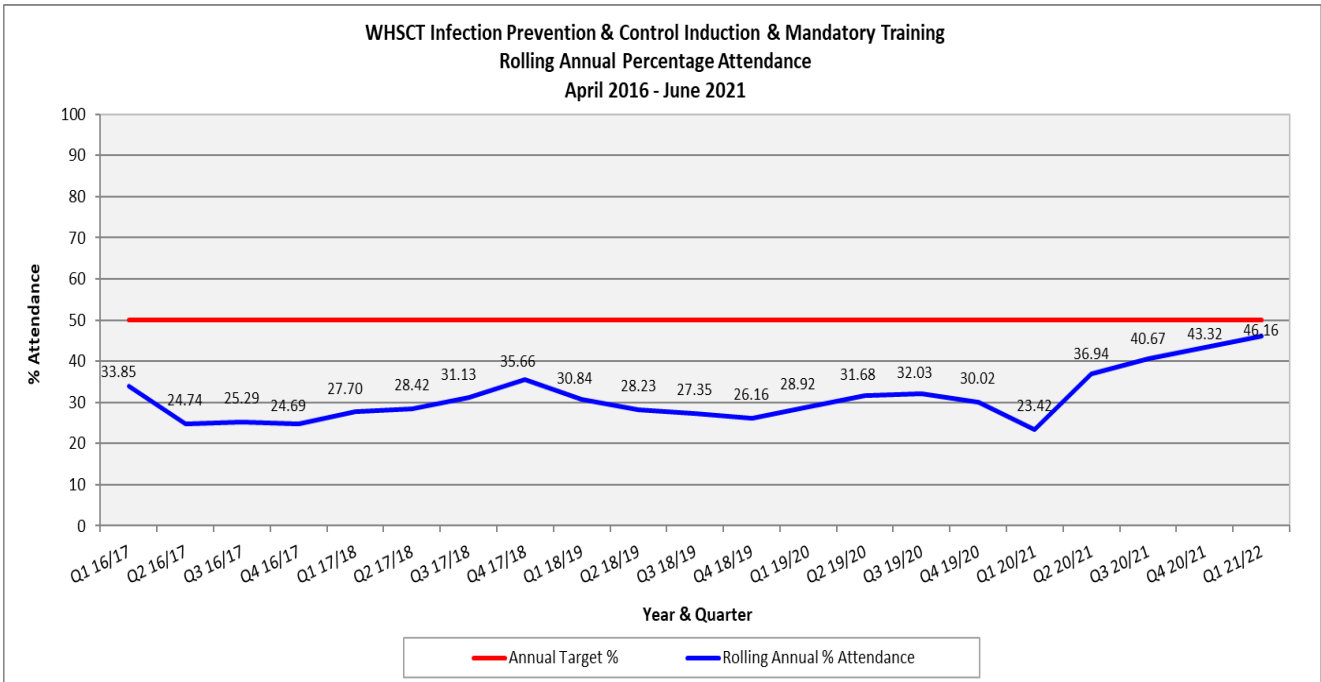
3. Infection Prevention & Control Induction and Mandatory Training

IP&C Induction and Mandatory Training has moved online and a new e-learning programme was launched across the Trust in late June 2020. This was developed regionally for use by all health and social care organisations in NI.

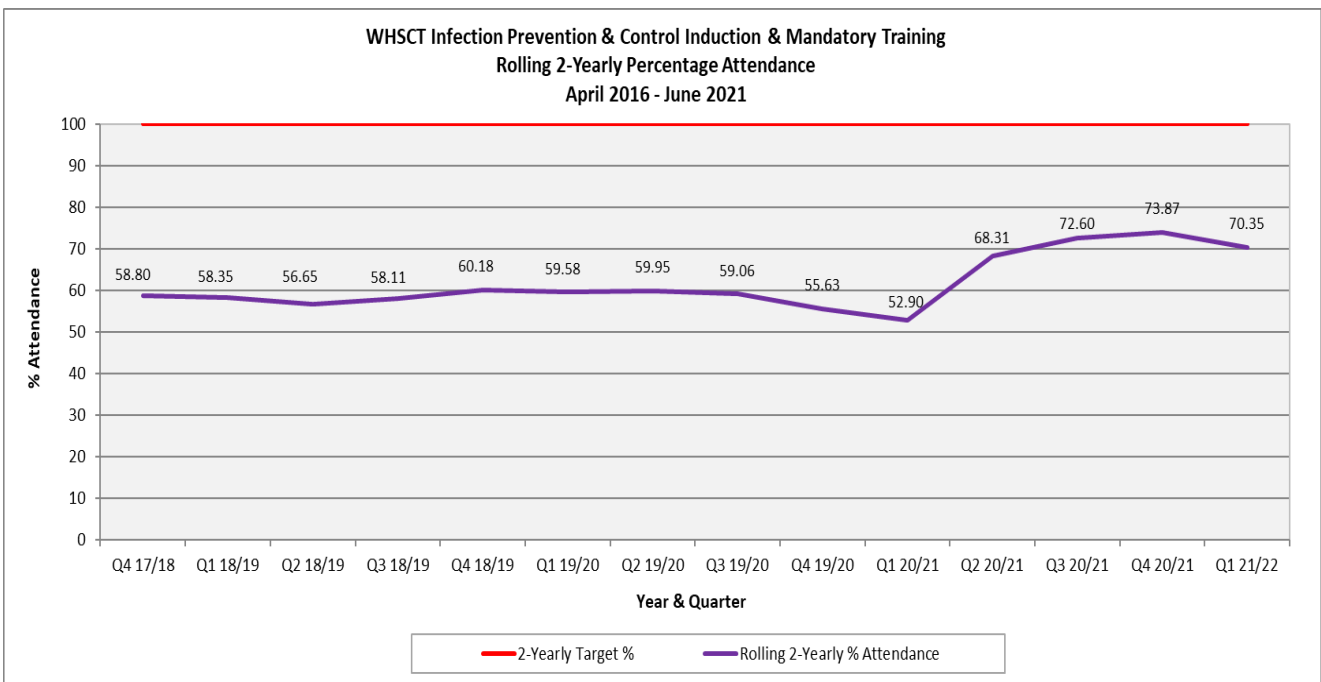
The e-learning programme comprises two tiers – Tier 1 and Tier 2. Staff only need to complete one of the tiers. Clarification on which tier each staff member should complete is provided via a Tier Matrix. The e-learning includes a short assessment to test understanding and awareness, with a certificate available to be printed after successful completion. Access to the e-learning is through the HSC Learning website (www.hsclearning.com) which is available to all Western Trust staff. The website can be accessed from any internet-enabled Trust or personal device (PC/ laptop/ mobile phone/ tablet). The training must be completed every two years as with the former face-to-face format.

In the period April and June 2021, a total of 948 staff completed the training.

The attendance target for each year is 50% of the total number of staff who require training (i.e. 5667 out of 11,334 applicable staff). As of the end of June, the percentage stands at 46.16%. That is 3.84% less than required, but it is an increase of 22.74% compared with the same period in the previous year.



As attendance at IP&C Training is required on a biennial basis, the attendance rate over a 24-month period has also been calculated. As of 30th June 2021, it is 70.35%.

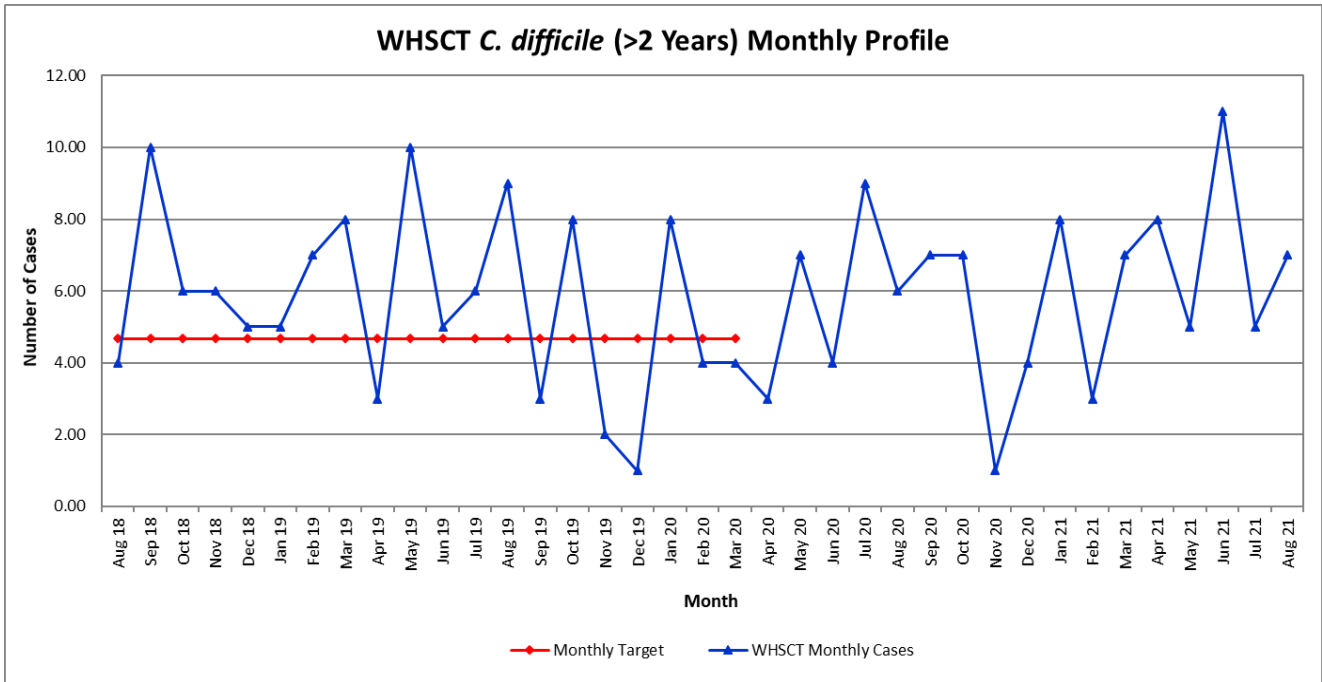


The Tier matrix, agreed regionally, did identify another Tier 1B for “healthcare staff with minimal or no patient/ client contact or healthcare staff with patient contact who require role specific training”. The method of delivery for this was face-to-face training. Commencing in July 2021 this is being delivered by an IP&C Nurse on a virtual platform (Zoom).

4. C. difficile Performance

The new 2021/22 reduction target for *C. difficile* (≥ 2 years) has not yet been issued.

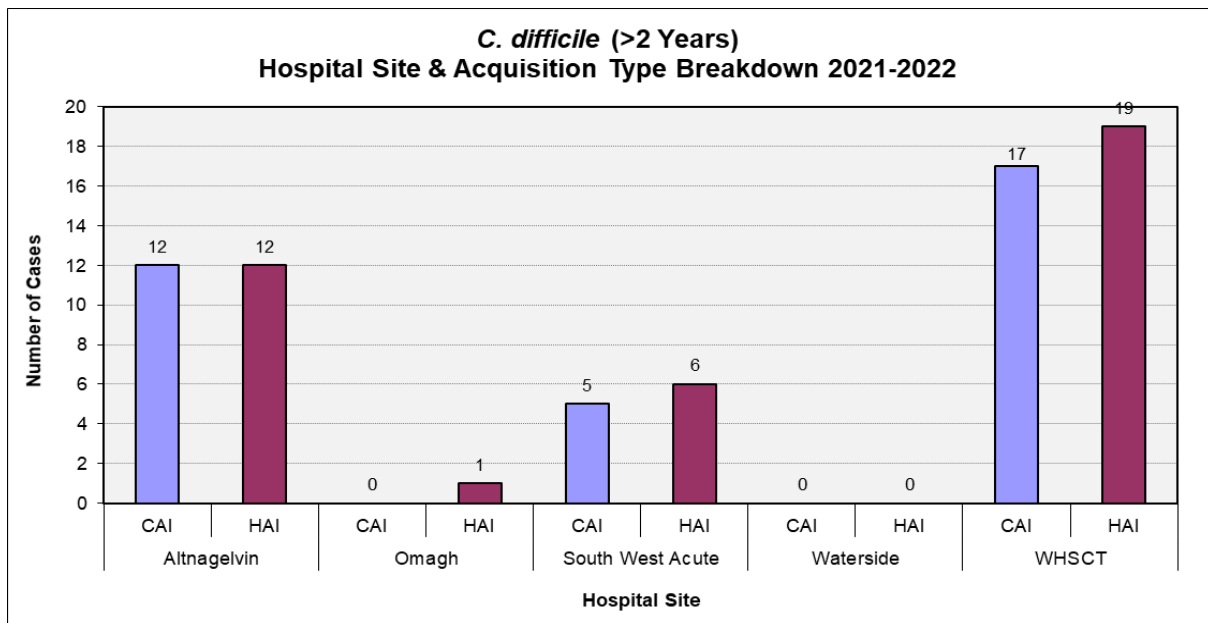
Since the beginning of April 2021 36 cases have been reported, with 17 of those being categorised as community-associated.



* The value for Aug 21 is subject to change as the report was compiled prior to the end of the month.

A breakdown of the cases by hospital site and acquisition type is given in the chart below.

Key:
CAI Community-associated infection
HAI Hospital-associated infection



Preventable/ Non-Preventable

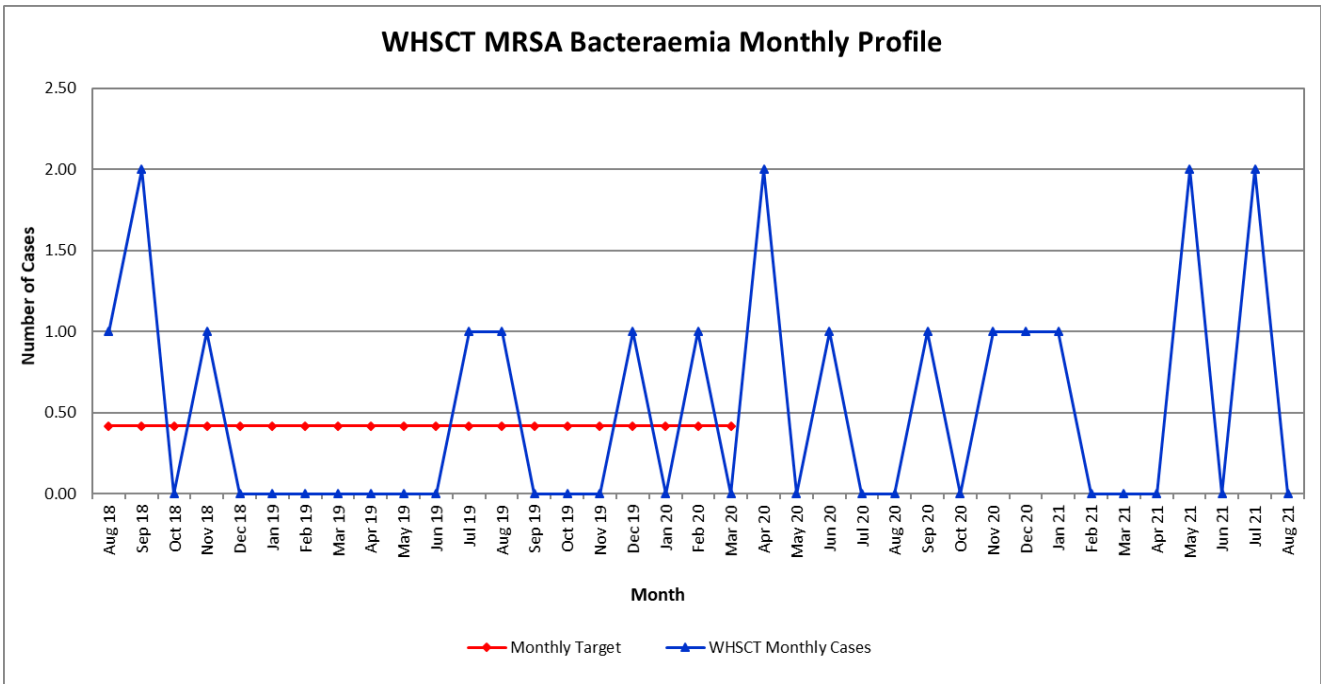
In respect of *C. difficile* cases occurring during 2021/22 a total of 17 post-infection reviews (PIRs) have been conducted. These found that none of the cases were preventable and 17 were non-preventable.

PIRs are pending for a further 16 cases.

5. MRSA Bacteraemia Performance

The new MRSA bacteraemia reduction target for 2021/22 has not yet been issued.

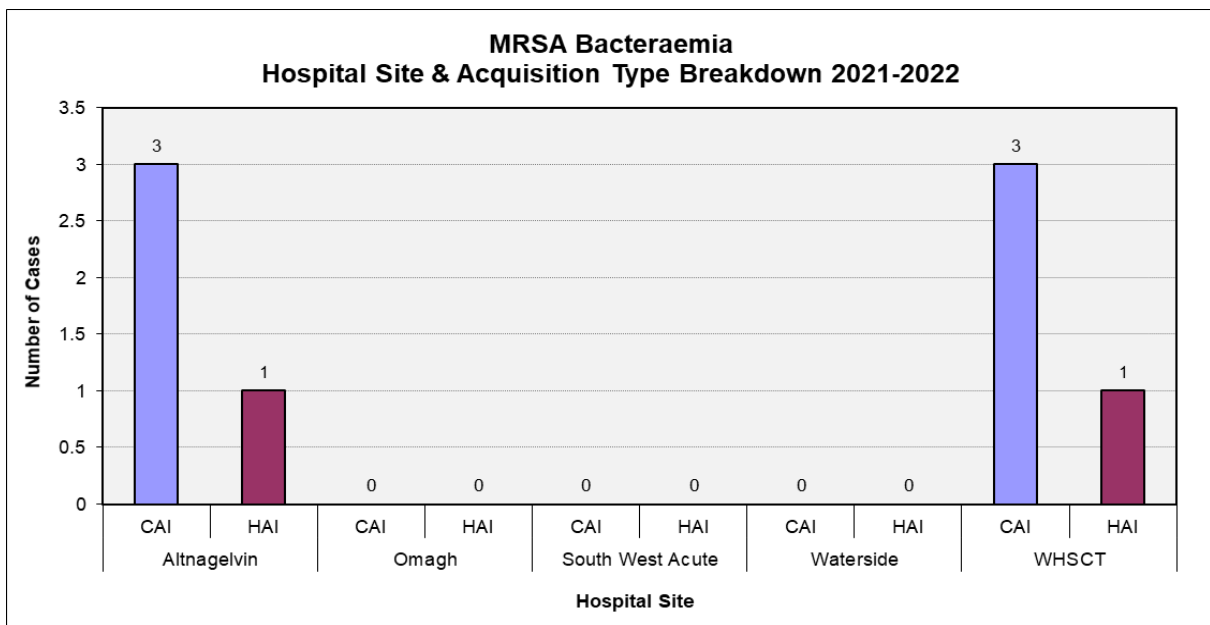
Since the beginning of April 2021 four cases have been reported, with one of those being categorised as healthcare-associated.



* The value for Aug 21 is subject to change as the report was compiled prior to the end of the month.

A breakdown of the cases by hospital site and acquisition type is given in the chart below.

Key:
CAI Community-associated infection
HAI Hospital-associated infection



As of 23rd August 2021, the total number of days since the last Trust hospital-associated MRSA bacteraemia is:

Altnagelvin – 84 days

(Last recorded case was in Ward 50)

SWAH – 435 days

(Last recorded case was in Ward 8)

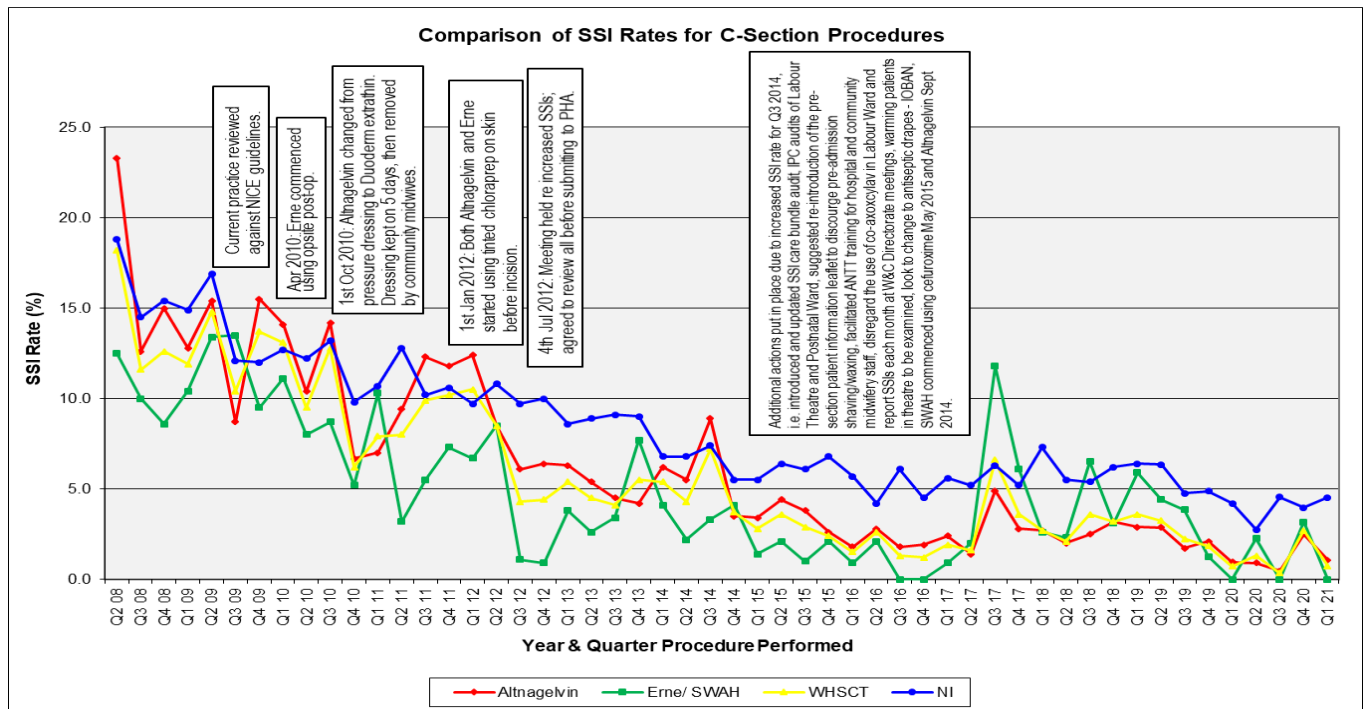
Tyrone County Hospital/ Omagh Hospital
& Primary Care Complex – 2407 days

(Last recorded case was in the Rehab Unit)

6. Caesarean Section Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance

During quarter one of 2021 the Trust achieved 90.1% compliance with surveillance related documentation, compared to an 85.7% average compliance rate in NI as a whole.

The surveillance information below demonstrates an ongoing reduction in infection rates over time and a lower rate for the Trust than the rest of the region; 0.75% and 4.52% respectively.



7. Orthopaedic Surgical Site Infection Surveillance

The SSI rate remains less than 0.7% of all surgery and, in quarter one of 2021 specifically, it is 0.00%. Evidence based care bundles are in place for orthopaedic surgery.

