

Infection Prevention & Control Report to Trust Board

Meeting Date – 1st October 2020

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, in addition to the resetting of services across the Western Trust. 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.

An outbreak of COVID-19 has been declared in Ward 40, Altnagelvin Hospital. Daily incident meetings are taking place and all IP&C measures have been instigated.

The IP&C Team are also currently managing a possible cluster of COVID-19 in Greenfield Residential Home, Strabane. Daily incident meetings are in place and further testing is awaited to ascertain any ongoing transmission.

Staff contact tracing in both of these areas has identified large numbers of staff are now self-isolating. Full compliance with IP&C guidance on the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) and compliance with COVID-secure principles has been reinforced.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

The IP&C Team have been involved in managing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* colonisation of the water supply in the South Wing, Altnagelvin Hospital. This was identified through normal routine water testing. Regular Trust Water Safety Group meetings continue and all necessary water safety measures are in place as per the Trust's Water Safety Plan.

The remedial works have been successful to date in eradicating *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the water supply to the NNICU and a further third cycle of water testing is to be undertaken on 16th October 2020. If these are negative then the incident in relation to NNICU will be closed with normal water sampling and exception reporting arrangements resumed as per the Water Safety Plan.

Further remedial work continues with regard to the remaining South Wing Building and further water testing is to be undertaken on 1st October 2020.

Reduction Targets

The Department of Health for Northern Ireland (NI) has not yet issued new healthcare-associated infection reduction targets for 2020/21. 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 MRSA Bacteraemia Performance

Since the beginning of April 2020 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 Public Health Agency [PHA]).

As of 24th September 2020, the total number of days since the last Trust hospital-associated MRSA bacteraemia is:

Altnagelvin Hospital – 689 days	(Last recorded case was in Ward 42)
South West Acute Hospital (SWAH) – 102 days	(Last recorded case was in Ward 8)
Tyrone County Hospital/ Omagh Hospital & Primary Care Complex (OHPCC) – 2074 days	(Last recorded case was in the Rehab Unit)

Current *C. difficile* Performance

So far this year 36 cases of *C. difficile* have been reported. 16 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 PHA). However, this is not always an accurate predictor of being healthcare-associated. The remainder (20) are classified as community-acquired as the patients presented with symptoms within a 72 hour period after admission.

Current GNB Performance

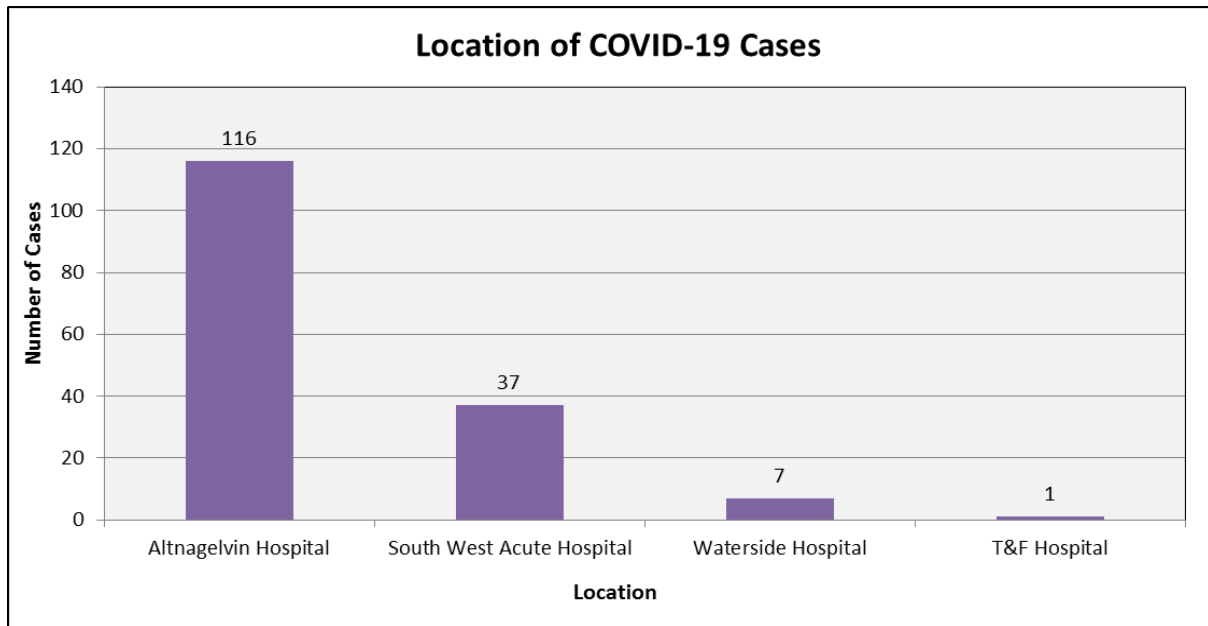
As of 24th September 2020, 19 healthcare-associated GNB cases have been reported.

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Case Statistics

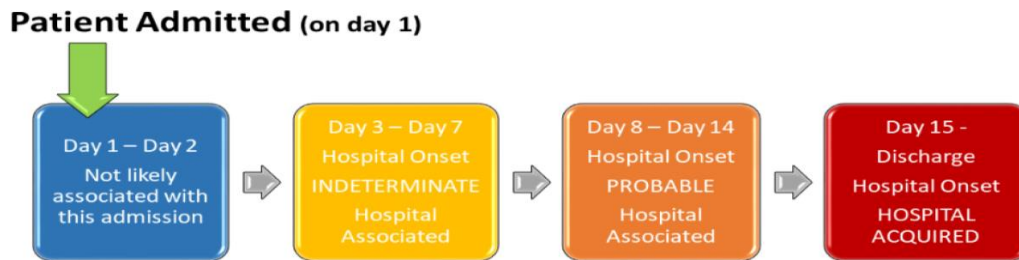
Data on the number of COVID-19 cases was initially collated from the Western Trust Tracker System, which started in March 2020. However, this system was later stopped. Thereafter the IP&C Team has obtained this information by telephoning individual wards/ departments on a daily basis.

From March to 24th September 2020 there have been a total of 161 COVID-19 cases within the Western Trust (*number is only those cases which the IP&C Team have been informed about*). The cases were located at four hospital sites as shown in the chart below.

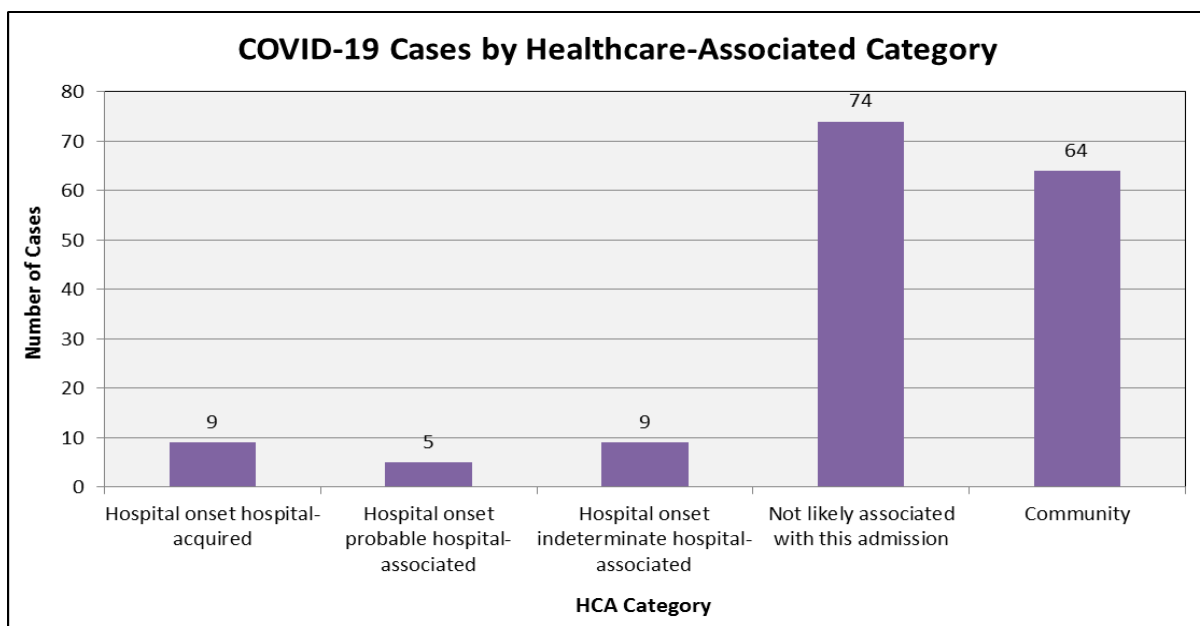


The PHA have introduced a new surveillance programme for healthcare-associated COVID-19 cases in NI. All laboratory-confirmed cases reported to the NI regional data warehouse (via local Health Protection Teams) from 26th February 2020 onwards will be included. Duplicates (second positive \leq 42 days after first positive) and second episodes (positive $>$ 42 days after first positive) will be removed. Each positive case will then be linked by health and care number to a hospital admission, extracted from the Patient Administration System (PAS).

Cases will be assigned to one of three healthcare-associated categories according to the number of days between the patient’s test date and the admission date, where the date of admission is defined as Day 1.

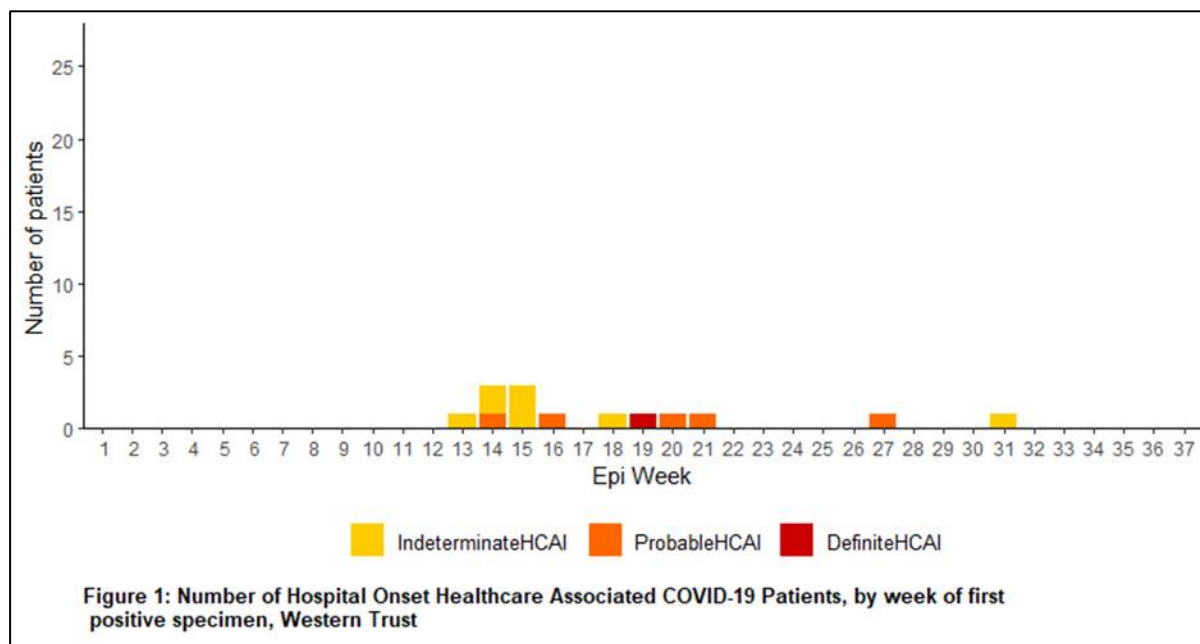


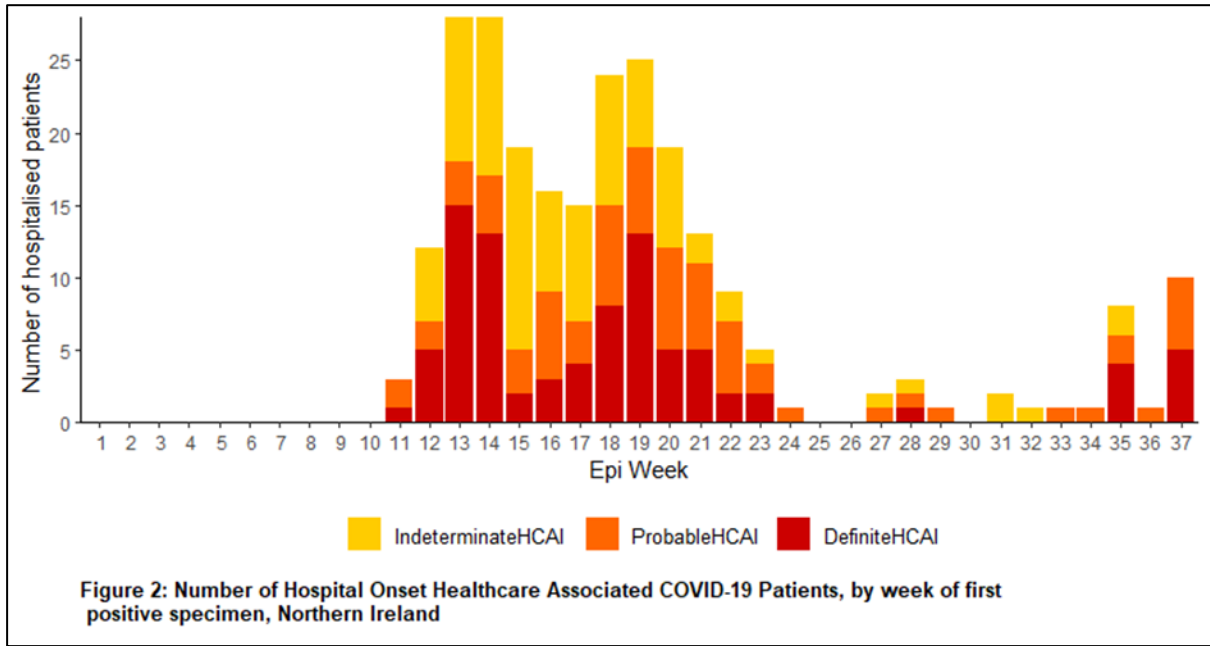
The IP&C Team have coded the 161 COVID-19 cases reported in the Western Trust according to the PHA healthcare-associated categorisation. The breakdown is shown in the chart below. In this instance the Community category refers to cases where the test date occurred prior to the patient’s admission to hospital.



In mid-August the PHA began issuing a weekly surveillance bulletin to each Trust reporting the number of healthcare-associated COVID-19 cases. The most recent report covered the period up to 13th September 2020. Below are two graphs, taken from this report, which show data at the Trust and NI level.

NB: The bulletin is based on data routinely collected by the PHA, caveats and definitions, which may change as familiarity with the data improves. Because of this, and also issues related to the recording of admissions for some hospitals on the PARIS system rather than PAS, the PHA data does not currently tally with the Trust's internal data. The IP&C Team have provided feedback to the PHA about the discrepancies and are awaiting clarification on how this might be rectified.

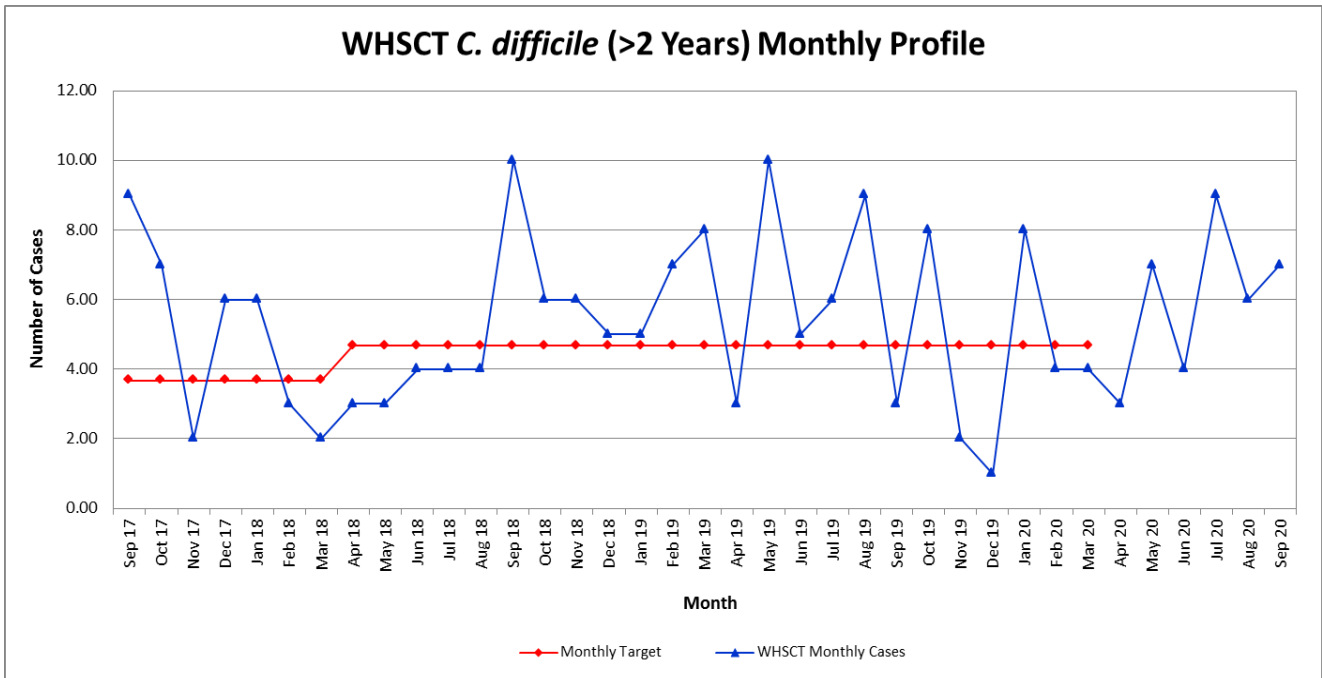




3. C. difficile Performance

The new 2020/21 reduction target for *C. difficile* (≥ 2 years) has not yet been issued.

Since the beginning of April 2020 36 cases have been reported, with 20 of those being categorised as community-associated.



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

2020/21	0	0	0	2	0	0 [†]							2 [†]
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* The PHA defines augmented care as NNICU, Adult ICU/ HDU, Renal, Oncology/ Haematology.

† These values are subject to change as the report was compiled prior to the end of the month/ year.

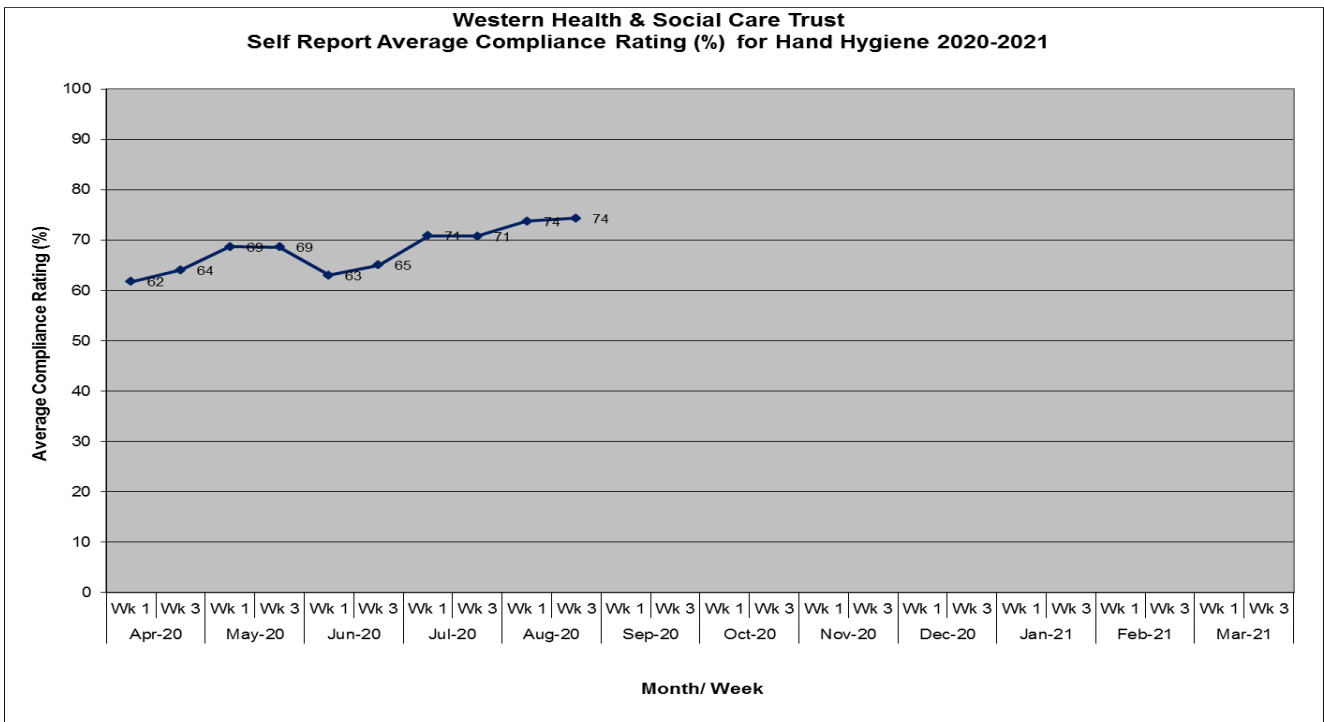
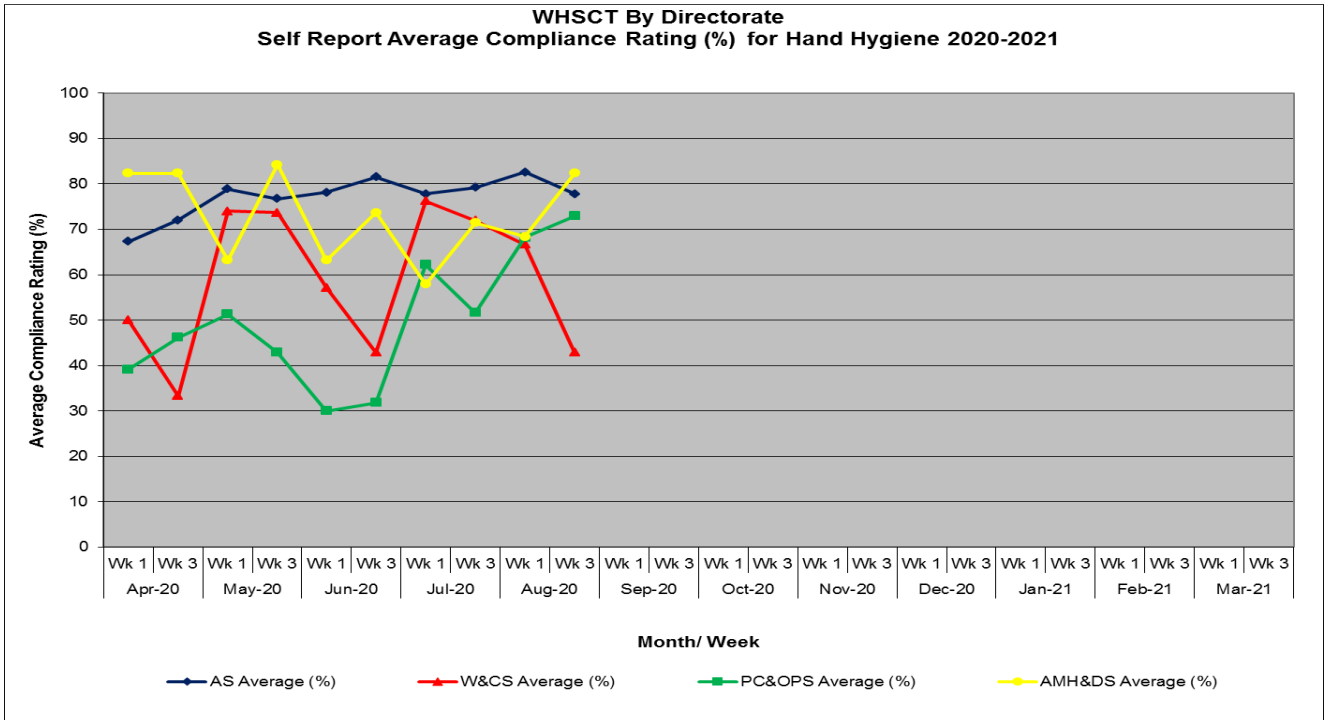
Since the beginning of April 2020 two *Pseudomonas* cases have been reported. Both were colonisations. There have been no healthcare-associated positive blood cultures in augmented care areas since July 2019.

5. Hand Hygiene Compliance

The Trust's overall self-reported hand hygiene scores are 74% when non-submission areas are included. These areas score an automatic 0%. 35 areas out of 194 applicable areas failed to submit scores for August 2020. They are as follows:

Site	Ward/ Department/ Facility
Altnagelvin	Emergency Department GUM Clinic Main Theatre 3 Main Theatre 4 Main Theatres Recovery OPALS South Wing Clinics Pre-Op Assessment
SWAH	Cardiac Investigations Pre-Op Assessment
OHPCC	Cardiac Investigations Outpatients Department Pre-Op Assessment
Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital	Elm Villa
Lakeview Hospital	Berryburn Centre
Grangewood Hospital	Carrick
Residential Homes	Thackeray Place Residential Home
Day Care	Beragh Day Centre Creggan Day Centre Dromore Day Centre Drumcoo Day Centre Drumhaw Day Centre Evergreen Centre Foyleville Day Centre Glen Oaks Gortin Day Centre Gortmore Day Centre Newtownstewart Day Centre Strabane Day Centre Tempo Road Day Centre Thackeray Place Day Centre
Other Community	Avalon House The Cottages Children's Respite Crannog Intensive Treatment Team Rapid Response Team, OHPCC Rapid Response Team, SWAH

A number of areas also did not submit scores for the previous month. These are highlighted in yellow on the above table.



However, when adjusted for non-submission areas, the Trust's overall self-reported hand hygiene scores improve to 100%.

The hand hygiene dashboard has been circulated to Directors for action through their governance arrangements.

It is important to note that scores from independent audits conducted by the IP&C Team and Lead Nurses tend to be lower than self-reported scores.