

Tracking Infection Rates at MICs Group of Health Services

MICs Group of Health Services posts its infection rates for the most common healthcare associated infections as part of its commitment to patient safety and transparency and as required by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Monthly rates for *Clostridium difficile*, (**C. diff**) and quarterly rates for Methicillin Resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (**MRSA**), and Vancomycin resistant enterococci (**VRE**) are posted.

The Infection Prevention and Control Committee is dedicated to working with employees, visitors and patients to minimize the acquisition and spread of healthcare associated infections.

Measures such as education, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, sterilization of instruments, additional precautions and personal protective equipment are used to ensure that infections are not spread from one person to another.

More information about patient safety indicators is available at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/>

Definitions:

Healthcare Associated *Clostridium difficile*: symptoms of clostridium difficile infection (diarrhea, abdominal pain) and a positive lab result when symptoms started at least 72 hours after admission, or there is a history of being hospitalized in the past month.

Community Associated *Clostridium difficile*: symptoms (diarrhea, abdominal pain) were present on admission or within 72 hours of admission and lab test is positive for C difficile.

Healthcare Associated MRSA or VRE: MRSA or VRE bloodstream infection where symptoms began at least 72 hours after admission or present at admission but related to previous admission to the same facility.

Community Associated MRSA or VRE: MRSA or VRE bloodstream infection where symptoms were present at admission or began less than 72 hours after admission.

** Community Associated infections are not included in the rates as they were not acquired/ associated with the facility at the facility**

** If spread of MRSA or VRE in the facility is identified with no bloodstream infection (patients become colonized with bacteria while at the facility) , an outbreak is declared and control measures are implemented despite the absence of bloodstream infections.**