

C. difficile Associated Disease (CDAD)

Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*) is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions such as colitis. It is the most common cause of infectious diarrhea in hospitalized patients in the industrialized world.

The use of antibiotics increases the chances of developing *C. difficile* diarrhea. Treatment with antibiotics alters the normal levels of good bacteria found in the intestines. When there are fewer of these good bacteria, *C. difficile* can thrive and produce toxins that can cause an infection. The combination of the presence of *C. difficile* in hospitals and the number of people receiving antibiotics in these settings can lead to the spread of CDAD. By washing your hands often, you can greatly reduce your chances of picking up *C. difficile*.

Rate of Hospital Acquired CDAD



September 2014 CVH Data:

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.58
Total Cases	7

Interpretation:

For the month of September, the rate of healthcare associated *C. difficile* at the Credit Valley Hospital, did not change compared to the previous month (0.58 cases per 1000 patient days). This rate is above the Trillium Health Partners internal benchmark target of 0.39 cases per 1000 patient days. A patient care specific outbreak was declared on September 15th, 2014 after meeting provincial outbreak definition. It was declared over in consultation with the Region of Peel Public Health department on September 22nd, 2014. Continued implementation of heightened surveillance, proper hand hygiene practices, enhanced cleaning procedures in affected patient care areas, and use of appropriate additional precautions were reviewed and reinforced. The Infection Prevention and Control team remains vigilant in the early detection of *C. difficile* cases and implementing appropriate control measures in an effort to decrease future transmission and acquisition.