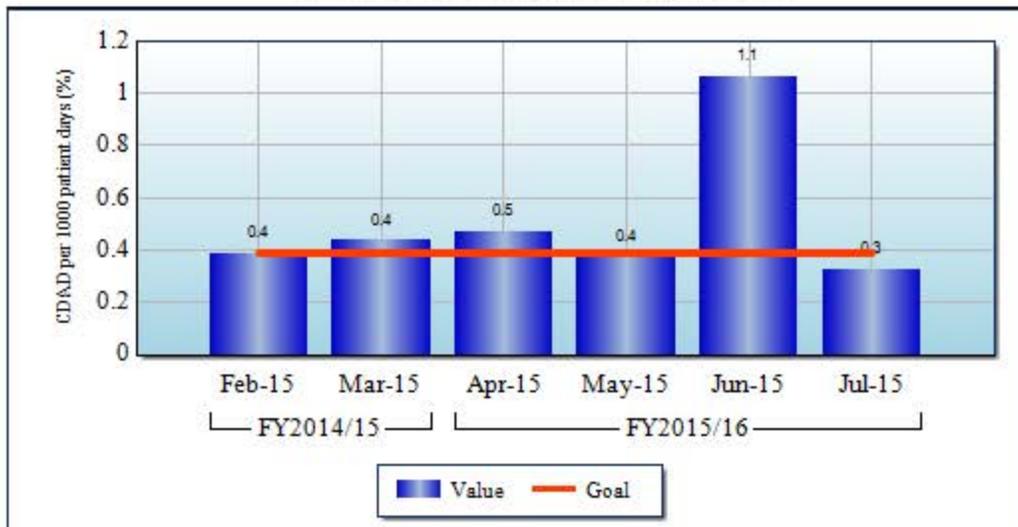


C. difficile Associated Disease (CDAD)

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



July 2015 CVH Data:

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.32
Total Cases	4

Interpretation:

For the month of July, the rate of healthcare associated *C. difficile* at the Credit Valley Hospital, decreased significantly compared to the previous month (1.06 to 0.32 cases per 1000 patient days; and from 14 to 4 AIIH *C. difficile* cases). This rate is below the Trillium Health Partners internal benchmark of 0.39 cases per 1000 patient days. During this time, in consultation with the Region of Peel Public Health department, a facility-wide outbreak related to *C. difficile* infection was declared. Aggressive infection control measures such as early detection of *C. difficile* cases, appropriate patient placement, antimicrobial stewardship and enhanced environmental cleaning were immediately implemented. These measures were carried out for a defined period of time in an effort to contain and decrease future transmission and acquisition. The outbreak was declared over on July 31st, 2015 in consultation with Peel Public Health as the rate of *C. difficile* returned to an expected rate appropriate to the facility and there was evidence of good infection control practices in place.