



Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI)

Clostridioides difficile (*C. difficile*) is a common bacterium that is found in the environment and occurs naturally in some people. It is commonly acquired in hospitals. *C. difficile* can cause severe illness resulting in death. Rigorous infection prevention and control practices are needed to prevent it from spreading within hospitals. Transmission occurs via contaminated surfaces or equipment and poor hand hygiene. *C. difficile* infections (CDI) can occur when antibiotics are prescribed.

The CDI rate is a quality indicator of the effectiveness of infection control and antibiotic stewardship practices. Examples of those practices include: hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and optimal use of antibiotics to improve patient outcomes yet contain bacterial resistance to antibiotics. This measure is calculated by tracking the number of hospital acquired CDI cases that meet a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) definition relative to the number of days patients are in Bluewater Health (known as “patient days”).

The CDI rate is a mandatory publicly reported safety measure for Ontario hospitals. Bluewater Health monitors this indicator monthly and remains focused on lowering our rates.

Bluewater Health compares its rate each month against the Provincial rate, which varies from month to month. For the fiscal year 2022-23, Bluewater Health aims for a rate less than 0.20. Bluewater Health’s Sarnia site CDI rate was 0.13 for October 2022. CEEH of Bluewater Health’s Petrolia site had a CDI rate of zero for October 2022.

Month	Rate of Hospital acquired CDI per 1,000 patient days/month		Number of Hospital acquired CDI cases/month	
	CEEH of Bluewater Health	Bluewater Health in Sarnia	CEEH of Bluewater Health	Bluewater Health in Sarnia
July	0.00	0.28	0	<5
August	0.00	0.29	0	<5
September	0.00	0.16	0	<5
October	0.00	0.00	0	0
November	0.00	0.42	0	<5
December	0.00	0.15	0	<5
January	0.00	0.14	0	<5
February	0.00	0.16	0	<5
March	0.00	0.00	0	0
April	0.00	0.31	0	<5
May	0.00	0.46	0	<5
June	1.3	0.15	<5	<5
July	0.00	0.15	0	<5
August	0.00	0.15	0	<5
September	0.00	0.57	0	<5
October	0.00	0.13	0	<5

Next Update: January 2023