

Control of *Clostridium difficile*  
Infection (CDI) Outbreaks in  
Hospitals  
A Guide for Hospital and Health Unit Staff

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September 16, 2010

# What are we going to cover?

- Key elements in the “Control of *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Outbreaks in Hospitals- A Guide for Hospital and Health Unit Staff”
- Frequently asked questions from the field

## Why did the MOHLTC create the CDI outbreak guide?

- Support health unit and hospital staff in the management of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) outbreaks;
- Define roles of parties involved in CDI outbreak management;
- Provide steps for CDI outbreak control; and
- Provide tools and resources to assist in CDI outbreak management.

# How is the MOHLTC CDI guide different from the PIDAC CDI Annex?

## PIDAC

- Deals with the prevention and control of transmission of *Clostridium difficile* in acute and non-acute health care settings
- Provides brief reference to CDI outbreaks
- Does not address CDI reporting specifics

## MOHLTC

- Provides steps for CDI outbreak management to support hospital and local public health unit staff
- Outlines roles and responsibilities in outbreak management
- Covers reporting requirements for health units and hospitals

# What are the legal reporting requirements?

Reporting requirements for hospitals and public health units are specified in regulations under the *Public Hospitals Act* (PHA) and the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA):

PHA:

- Regulation 965 (Hospital Management), requires hospitals to disclose indicators concerning quality of health care, when requested to do so by the Minister and in the manner specified by the Minister, that relate to diagnoses of hospital acquired infections, activities undertaken to reduce hospital-acquired infections, and mortality.

HPPA:

- O. Reg. 558/91, includes outbreaks of CDI in hospitals on the list of communicable diseases in Ontario;
- O. Reg. 559/91, includes outbreaks of CDI in hospitals on the list of reportable diseases in Ontario; and
- O. Reg. 569, which includes the specific data elements for outbreaks of CDI which hospitals must provide to their local medical officers of health.

## Why were the outbreak definitions changed to notification thresholds?

- Definitions were revised based on feedback from the field
- Created by PIDAC on request from the (A)CMOH
- Thresholds are more sensitive, triggering early communication between hospital and local public health unit

Reaching a threshold does not mean an outbreak will be declared

## What do we do when a threshold is met?

- Review:
  - Data/line list;
  - Historical baseline for the facility/unit/ward, if available;
  - Control measures; and
  - Current surveillance practices.

# What should be considered when declaring a CDI outbreak?

- Number of new nosocomial cases associated with the reporting ward/unit or facility;
- Historic level of CDI activity of the ward/unit or facility;
- Current trend in ward/unit CDI activity or facility rate;
- Location of current cases and possible epidemiologic links between cases;
- Current control measures; and
- Comparison with like hospitals.

Declaration of an outbreak can be made by either the institution or the MOH.

# When should we declare the outbreak over?

Factors to consider:

- There is evidence that appropriate infection prevention and control practices are in place with reassurance that they can be sustained (e.g. antibiotic stewardship, stool management, environmental cleaning); and
- There is a return to the expected rate of CDI appropriate to the facility/unit based on patient demographics.

# What does the ministry need from public health units?

- Timely data entry:
  - Within one business day of notification: Enter preliminary report into iPHIS
  - Ongoing: Enter new/updated information (e.g., aggregate counts, complications, IPAC)
  - Within 15 business days of outbreak being declared over: Enter final report into iPHIS
- Feedback on the guide (e.g. what's useful, what's missing)

## Next Steps

- Provincial CDI report
- Collaboration between the MOHLTC and OAHPP
- Target date: ?

# Who do we call if we have questions?

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