

Will patients benefit from the survey?

This hospital is taking part in the survey to learn more about hospital-acquired infections and antibiotic use in this hospital, in Northern Ireland and in Europe.

The results of the survey for this hospital will be used by nurses, doctors and managers to improve antibiotic use, reduce hospital-acquired infections and improve patient care.

Will I need to have extra tests?

No. The information for the survey will be taken from the results of previous tests. No extra tests will be needed.

Will my care be affected in any way?

No. Your normal care will not be affected in any way. All the information needed to complete the survey is already available in your notes or from the nurse or doctor who is looking after you.

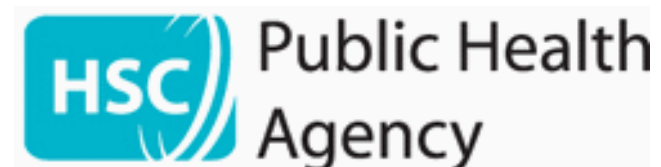
Can I be identified by the data collected?

No. There will be no personally-identifying information collected. All data collected is anonymous. The information collected is: age, gender, the type of ward a patient is admitted to (i.e. medical ward, surgical ward or intensive care unit), whether or not a patient has a drip or urinary catheter, had recent surgery, receives antibiotics and if a hospital-acquired infection is present.



POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY (PPS) OF HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS AND ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Patient information



What is this survey about?

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control is overseeing a large survey across Europe, designed to answer two questions:

1. What percentage of patients develop an infection as a result of being admitted to hospital?
2. What percentage of patients in hospital receive antibiotics?

This is the second survey to be carried out across all European countries. The survey will take place in hospitals in Northern Ireland in May 2017.

Hospital-acquired infection

- WHY DOES INFECTION HAPPEN IN A HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT?

Infection can happen anywhere, but patients in hospital are more prone to infection than people elsewhere. This is because they have either just had medical treatments or operations that make them more vulnerable, or because they are more elderly. Their natural defences are lowered and so they are more likely to be affected by bacteria that enter their system.

- WHAT CAUSES INFECTION?

Infection can happen when bacteria enter part of the body at a place where they are not meant to be. For instance, they can enter:

- through a wound or cut (including a cut made during an operation)
- through a medical device that is inserted into the body – such as a drip into a vein or a catheter into the bladder
- when we breathe (in the same way as when you catch a cold)
- when we swallow them, if the bacteria are on our fingers or in food.

- HOW CAN I PREVENT IT HAPPENING TO ME OR OTHERS?

You can reduce the likelihood of getting a hospital-acquired infection by always checking that staff have washed their hands or used an antibacterial hand rub before they touch you. You can wash your own hands regularly (after contact with other patients or staff, after going to the toilet and before and after eating).

Why is information being collected on the use of antibiotics?

The survey will check the number of patients receiving antibiotics.

The information collected will help to identify areas where antibiotic use may be improved.

- Antibiotics are very important to treat infections
- Bacteria are always finding new ways to become resistant to antibiotics
- Infections that are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria, such as MRSA, are more difficult to treat
- Sometimes antibiotics are used unnecessarily, for example, on infections caused by viruses
- Unnecessary antibiotic use contributes to an increased risk of hospital-acquired infections

What happens during the survey?

- The hospital has a team of nurses and doctors who will go to every ward and check which patients have a hospital-acquired infection and which patients are receiving antibiotics.
- The survey team will also check notes, charts and laboratory results to decide if a patient has a hospital-acquired infection or is receiving antibiotics.