

## How to interpret the HALT summary report?

Dear participant to the HALT project,

First, we would like to thank you for participating in this European project on infections and antibiotic use in long term care facilities. We would like to provide you some detailed information about the summary report, produced automatically by the HALT-software application. This report contains the following parts:

### General data

The first box indicates general information like the study number of your facility, the date of the survey, the number of eligible residents in your facility (the total number of residents taken into account in the study) and the number of completed questionnaires for residents using antibiotics (ABs) and/or presenting signs/symptoms of infection.

### Signs/symptoms of infection

The total number of signs/symptoms of infections is displayed. Each infection is counted. This means that if for example a resident presents signs/symptoms for two infections, both infections are recorded in the total number. Next, the total number of signs/symptoms is divided into subcategories of infection sites. The number and proportion of infections for each site (urinary tract, skin infection, etc.) are presented.

### Type of antibiotics (AB)

The total number of antimicrobials prescribed in your facility is displayed. This number includes all categories of molecules (antibiotics, antimycotics, etc.). If a resident receives for example two AB treatments, both are counted in this total number.

The next table provides the number of molecules, classified by category according to the ATC-classification<sup>1</sup>. The molecules are classified by category according to antimicrobials for systemic use only (ATC class J01).

**Important remark:** If you did not use the provided drop list of ABs for selecting the prescribed molecule and you entered the AB name in the 'free text' field (i.e. for ABs not present in the drop list), these prescriptions will not be included in the total number because an ATC<sup>1</sup>-code is needed in order to be counted. Therefore: we strongly recommend you to use the drop list as much as possible.

### Microbiological results

This part of the report summarizes the number of AB treatments for which a culture sample was taken.

---

<sup>1</sup> Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification system (WHO)

The second table only presents the number of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms (MRSA, resistant *Escherichia coli*, etc.), plus *Clostridium difficile*.

### Characteristics of residents

The first column of this part shows the percentages for residents' characteristics, care load and risk factors (gender, urinary catheter, etc.) present in the resident population in your facility. These data are based on the denominator data registered in the institutional questionnaire.

The second and third column present the number of residents presenting signs/symptoms of infection and resident using ABs for the same categories of characteristics, respectively.

### Infection control and AB stewardship resources

An important aim of the HALT-project is to develop a tool for measuring available resources for the prevention and control of infections and to assess the appropriate use of antimicrobials in your facility. This scoring system serves merely to get an overview of the status in your facility. No judgement of your facility will be made.

The system allows us to measure the evolution of the infection control resources and antibiotic policy over time; in total, per country and facility.

Based on questions in the institutional questionnaire elements are grouped into categories:

I - Clinical governance includes organisational factors concerning infection control resources, AB policy and resident care present in the facility.

II - Infection control indicators concern activities and efforts in order to prevent infections and the spread of resistant pathogens in the facility.

III - Hand hygiene indicators refer to practices and efforts for the improvement of hand hygiene in the facility.

IV - Protocols for infection control reflect the presence of written care protocols and guidelines with regard to infection prevention in the facility.

V - Antimicrobial stewardship indicators are related to the presence of activities to optimise a rational AB use in the facility.

VI - Infection diagnosis/laboratory support concerns the application of practices for supporting the diagnosis of infections in the facility in order to guide appropriate AB treatments.

VII - Surveillance includes the presence of certain surveillance activities.

If you have further questions, please contact your national study coordinator.

Mr. Gerry Mcilvenny

[gerry.mcilvenny@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:gerry.mcilvenny@belfasttrust.hscni.net) and [gerry.mcilvenny@hscni.net](mailto:gerry.mcilvenny@hscni.net)