

The European HALT Project

In Northern Ireland

(Healthcare Associated Infections and Antibiotic use in Long Term Care Facilities)

OUTLINE OF SURVEY

Background

European healthcare organisations are challenged increasingly to meet the health care needs of larger numbers of an ageing population. As a consequence, elderly patients are discharged early from hospital and residents with high care needs are transferred to Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs). Throughout Europe the number of residents in long term care facilities have already surpassed the number in acute care hospitals and this trend is set to continue.

Aims of the HALT Project

The Healthcare Associated infections in Long Term Care Facilities (HALT) project was commissioned by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The aim of the HALT Project is to develop and implement a sustainable methodology to estimate the prevalence of healthcare associated infections, antimicrobial resistant micro-organisms and antimicrobial use in Long Term Care facilities in Europe. Thus, future trends could be monitored and the needs for intervention, training and/or additional infection control resources identified.

The European wide point prevalence survey will be undertaken between May 2010 and September 2010. The Public Health Agency (PHA) is recruiting volunteer nursing/residential care homes in Northern Ireland to participate in the survey during September 2010.

DESIGN AND ORGANISATION

What “point prevalence survey” means?

- The point prevalence survey is based on the identification of residents with antibiotic use AND/OR infections on the day of the survey.
- Prevalence rates are computed by dividing the number of residents with antibiotic use AND/OR infections by the “exposed” population.

When should the survey be carried out?

- Period: between **6th September to 24th September 2010**
- Data should preferably be collected **during one single day**. In large LTCFs, data collection can be carried out over two or more consecutive days.
- It is important that **all beds in a ward** are surveyed during one single day.

Which residents should be included in the survey?

Residents should be **included** if:

- living full-time in the LTCF
- AND**
- present at 8 AM on the day of the survey
- AND**
- at least present in the LTCF for 24hours

Residents should be **excluded** if:

- not living full-time in the LTCF
- not present in the LTCF for at least 24h (e.g. admitted the day before the SURVEY)
- residents from day care centres (not living full-time in the LTCF)
- residents hospitalised on the day

Which infections should be included?

- Only infections **not already present or in incubation at the time of admission or re-admission** to the LTCF.
- All sites of infection should be included

Which antibiotics should be recorded?

- An ‘**Antibiotic using resident**’ = a resident present on the day of the survey **for at least 24h** and receiving an antibiotic on the day.
- **Inclusion:**
 - All oral, rectal, intramuscular (IM) and intravenous (IV) treatment with
 - Antibacterials and antimycotics for systemic use
 - Drugs for treatment of tuberculosis
 - Antibiotic treatment by inhalation (aerosol therapy)
- **Exclusion:**
 - Antivirals for systemic use
 - Antibiotics for topical (local) use
 - Antiseptics

Organisation of the survey and workload

- **Information sessions will be organized by PHA for participating staff**
- If required, **written consent forms** have to be completed for residents with signs/symptoms of an infection and/or antibiotic-using residents.
- Resident questionnaires should be completed only for residents with signs/symptoms of an infection and/or antibiotic-using residents. In a facility with 100 beds, if the prevalence is 8% as in previous prevalence surveys in Europe, 8 residents questionnaires would only be completed.
- The institutional questionnaire can be completed the day before or after the day of the survey.
- If a nurse is responsible for data collection, it is preferred that a GP or coordinating physician checks and validates the data from the questionnaires.

Confidentiality

- **Each participating LTCF will be assigned a code** by the study coordinator which is not identifiable by others. All reports and presentations of results will only use the LTCF survey numbers and never the institution names.
- **The resident questionnaires are anonymous.** A survey number is used instead of the resident name.

How is the data entered?

- A software program for data entry will be sent to all participating LTCFs, where it can be installed on a local computer. Paper questionnaires can be used to collect the requested information before data entry.
- A user guide (how to install and work with the software) will be provided.
- Once all data are collected in the facility and entered in the program, the data is sent to the Northern Ireland coordinator.
- The data will be appended to the Northern Ireland database and later on to the European database.

For what will the data be used?

- The Northern Ireland survey coordinator will generate an automatic feedback report for each participating LTCF.
- A aggregated survey report for Northern Ireland and a European aggregated report will be prepared.

Participating in the survey

PHA is currently recruiting volunteer nursing/residential care homes in Northern Ireland to participate in the prevalence survey during September 2010.

Information/training days

Information/training days for those interested in participating will be held during September 2010:

First Information/training day

Venue: Farset International
466 Springfield Road
Belfast BT12 7DW

Date : Tuesday 7 September 2010

Registration: 10:00am – 10:30am

Duration: 10:30am – 3:30pm

Meals: Coffee and lunch provided.

Second Information/training day

Venue: Loughry College
76 Dungannon Road,
Cookstown BT80 9AA

Date : Thursday 9 September 2010

Registration: 10:00am – 10:30am

Duration: 10:30am – 3:30pm

Meals: Coffee and lunch provided.

Further information for health professionals and other agencies:

Health protection duty room
Public Health Agency
4th Floor
12–22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST
BT2 8BS
Tel: 028 9055 3997 or 028 9055 3994
Email: pha.dutyroom@hscni.net

General information and software support:

Gerard McIlvenny
HALT National Survey Coordinator – Northern Ireland
Public Health Agency
Kelvin Building, The Royal Hospitals, Grosvenor Road,
Belfast, BT12 6BA
Tel: 028 90634119 or 07833717443
E-mail: gerry.mcilvenny@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Nursing and co-ordination:

Annette O'Hara, Public Health Nurse
E-mail: annette.ohara@hscni.net
Tel: 028 37414406

Hilda Crookshanks, Surveillance co-ordinator
E-mail: hilda.crookshanks@belfasttrust.hscni.net
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