

## Why is it important to collect this information on nursing homes?

- The number of residents cared for in these settings is increasing.
- The number of residents of nursing homes that require complex care is also increasing.
- The frequency of infections is comparable to that in acute care.
- Accurate information on infections antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use is crucial to increase awareness and to put strategies in place to reduce preventable healthcare associated infection and inappropriate antibiotic use.

## Where can I get further information?

Further information can be sourced from:

- Staff in your nursing home
- Public Health Agency (PHA) website at:

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)



***Survey of healthcare associated  
infection in long term care  
facilities***

**Patient Information**

## **What is the HALT project?**

The HALT project is a survey of nursing homes in 33 European countries including Northern Ireland which is taking place in 2010.

### **The survey is looking at 4 areas:**

1. Healthcare associated infection.
2. Antibiotic use.
3. Infection prevention and control resources and practices.
4. Antibiotic resistance.

## **Who is carrying out the survey in Northern Ireland?**

The Public Health (PHA) is the national agency responsible for monitoring infectious disease in Northern Ireland and is coordinating the survey along with staff from each participating nursing home, and if available, infection prevention and control teams. The PHA will send the Northern Ireland results to the European Centre of Disease Control which is coordinating the study throughout the EU.

## **What is a healthcare associated infection?**

A healthcare associated infection is any infection picked up by a resident 24 hours or more after admission to a nursing home. These include urinary tract, respiratory and wound infections.

## **How does the survey work?**

Patient case notes, nursing notes and drug medication charts will be checked by staff from your nursing home. Information will be collected from these notes to check whether a resident has an infection or is on antibiotics. In addition each nursing home will collect information on infection prevention and control practices, resources and training.

## **Will residents benefit from this survey?**

Information collected during this survey will allow each nursing home to develop strategies to reduce preventable healthcare associated infection and inappropriate antibiotic use. In addition, as this survey is being conducted in 33 EU countries, each nursing home will be able to compare their results with other similar nursing homes.

## **Will I have to have extra tests?**

No. The information will be collected from previous test results.

## **Will my care be affected in any way?**

No. Your normal care will not be affected. All information needed is available in your notes.

## **Can I be identified by the information collected?**

No. The information is collected anonymously. The only information required is sex age; test results and risk factors for infection (e.g. the number with a urinary catheter). Only a limited number of staff in the PHA, ECDC and in your nursing home will have access to the data.