

C. difficile surveillance

Quarterly report

October - December 2025

Key points

- CDI reports for hospital inpatients aged 2 years and over increased by 19% (from 81 to 96 episodes) during October-December 2025 compared to July-September 2025.
- CDI rate per 100,000 bed days increased by 19% during October-December 2025 compared to July-September 2025.
- CDI reports for community patients aged 2 years and over decreased by 4% (from 89 to 85 episodes) during October-December 2025 compared to July-September 2025.
- During October-December 2025 the most prevalent CDI ribotypes are 015 (11%), 002 (10%), 078-Like (9%) and 005 (9%) (Table 3).
- Bed day data were not available for NHST, SHST and WHST hospitals and provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Oct-Dec 2024).
- For data from 1st April 2023 onwards, “Inpatient episodes” refers to all patients categorised as hospital in-patient **and** ED episodes where the patient tested positive \geq 2 days after the decision to admit date.

For further information or clarification on HCAI definitions, please refer to previous reports or contact hcaini@hscni.net

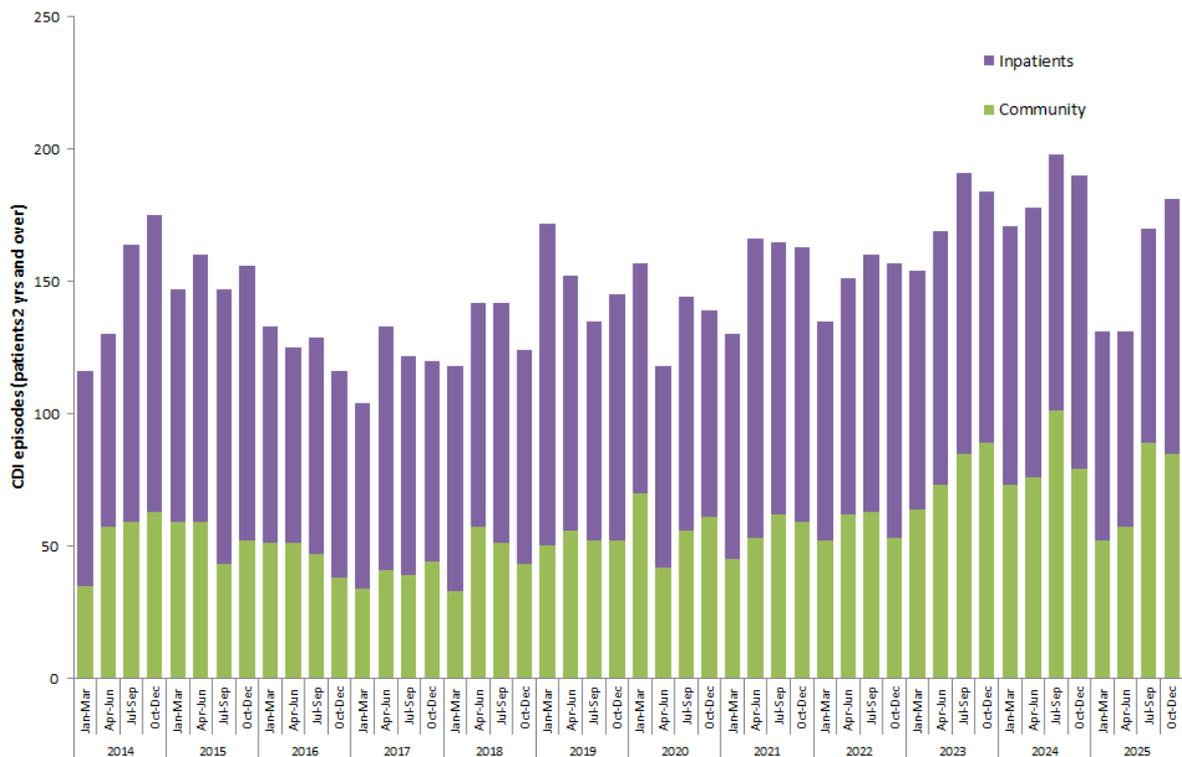


Figure 1: Total CDI episodes, inpatient and community, in Northern Ireland, by quarter (patients ≥ 2 years), between 2014 and 2025

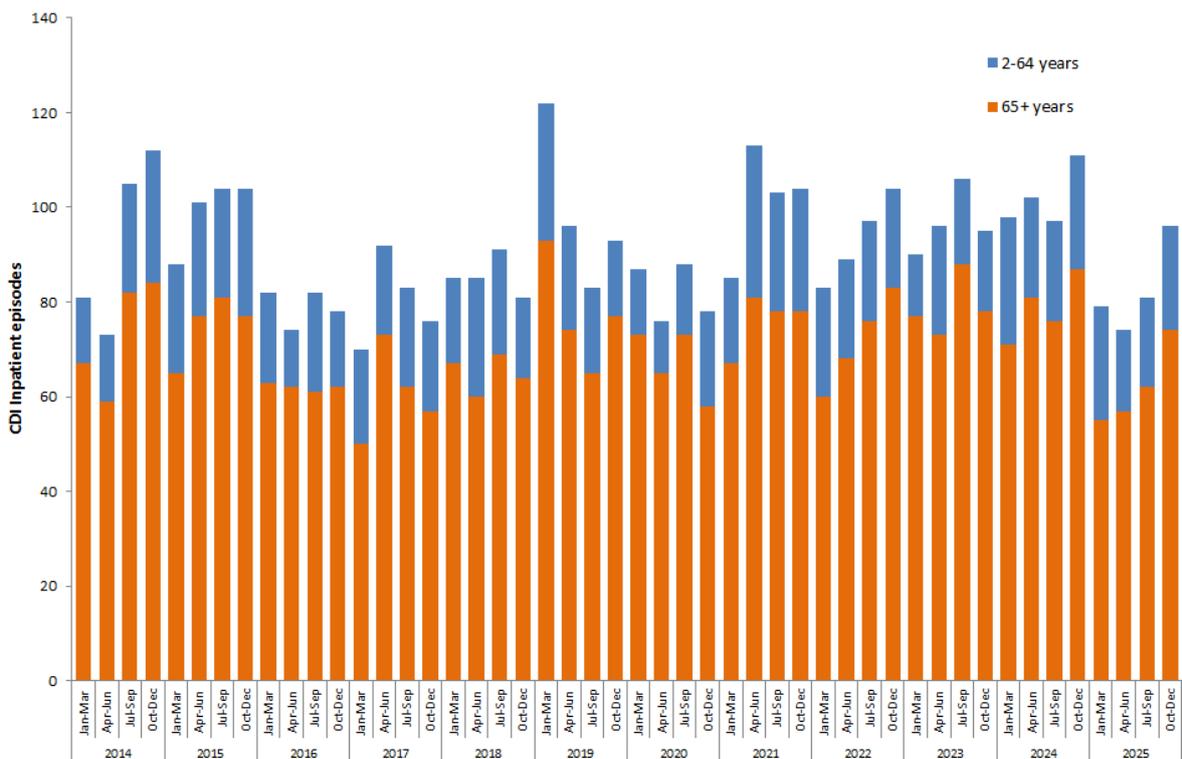


Figure 2a: Total CDI inpatient episodes, by age band, in Northern Ireland, by quarter, between 2014 and 2025

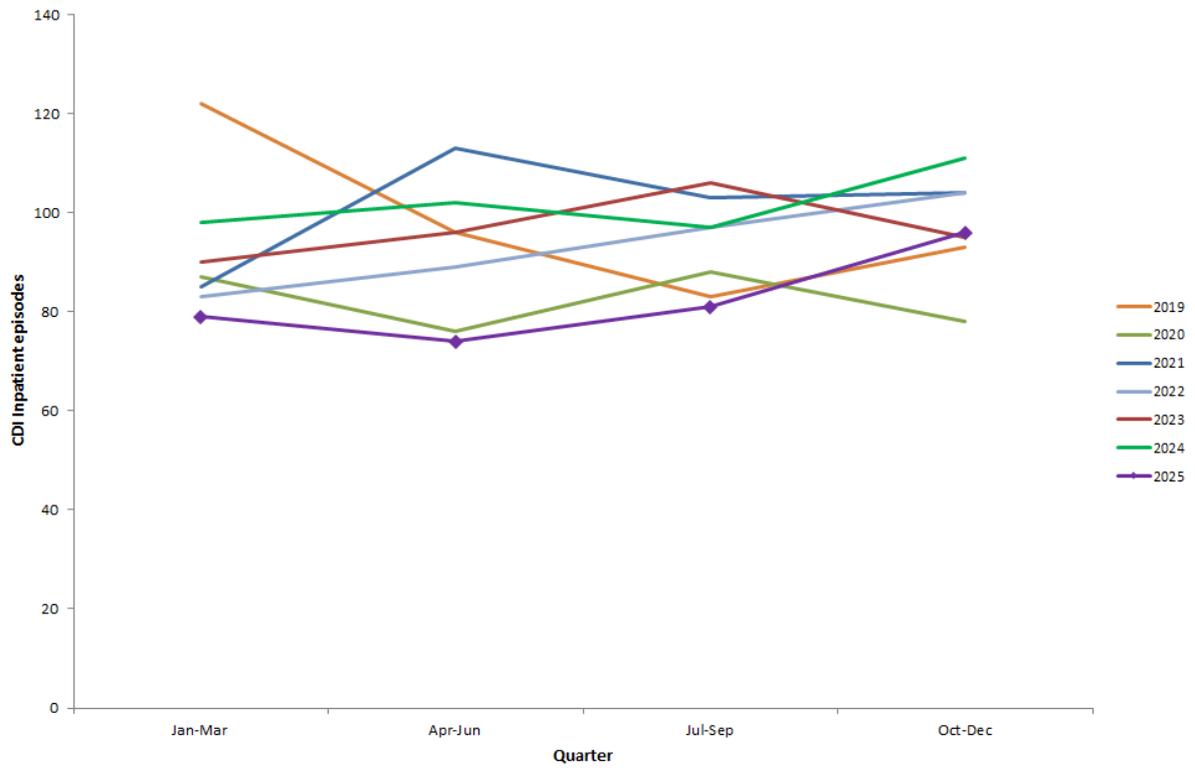


Figure 2b: Total CDI inpatient episodes in Northern Ireland, by quarter (patients \geq 2 years), between 2019 and 2025

Statistical process control (SPC) charts

- SPC charts allow a distinction to be made between natural variation and ‘special cause variation’, where something unusual may be occurring. Trends in CDI rates since Jan 2014 are shown for each HSCT in appendix B.

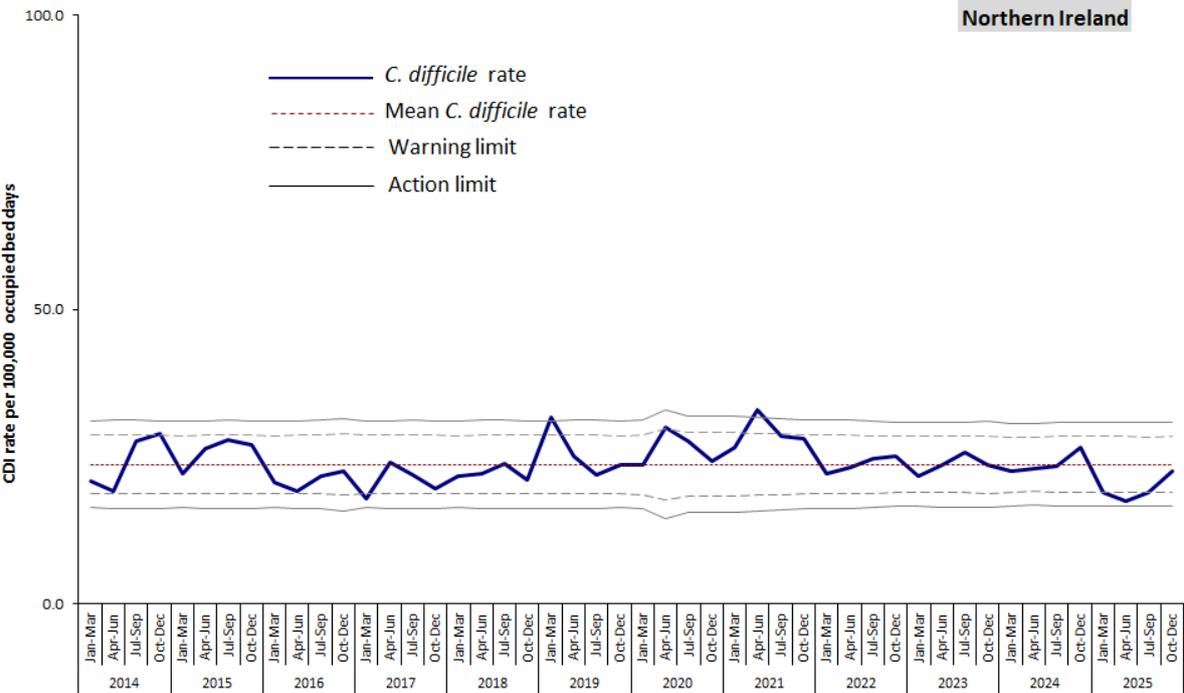


Figure 3: Statistical process control chart for quarterly *C. difficile* rates among inpatients in Northern Ireland aged 2 years and over (for HSCT level, see appendix B)

Results from the NI Ribotype Surveillance Programme

Table 1: A summary of *C. difficile* ribotypes in Hospital Inpatients aged 2 years and over, and the percentage of each against the overall total, in Northern Ireland during routine surveillance, Jan - Dec 2025.

Ribotype	Jan - Mar 2025		Apr - Jun 2025		Jul - Sep 2025		Oct - Dec 2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
001	0	0.0	4	5.4	1	1.2	1	1.0
002	8	10.1	8	10.8	13	16.0	11	11.5
005	3	3.8	8	10.8	6	7.4	6	6.3
011	3	3.8	1	1.4	4	4.9	0	0.0
014	4	5.1	8	10.8	8	9.9	9	9.4
015	8	10.1	5	6.8	11	13.6	12	12.5
018	3	3.8	0	0.0	1	1.2	2	2.1
020	5	6.3	2	2.7	2	2.5	7	7.3
023	4	5.1	4	5.4	3	3.7	8	8.3
027	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.5	0	0.0
078-like*	9	11.4	16	21.6	9	11.1	12	12.5
Other	22	27.8	11	14.9	15	18.5	23	24.0
Not groupable**	5	6.3	4	5.4	5	6.2	4	4.2
Not on ribotype list	5	6.3	3	4.1	1	1.2	1	1.0
Not isolated***	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	79		74		81		96	

Table 2: A summary of *C. difficile* ribotypes in Community Patients aged 2 years and over, and the percentage of each against the overall total, in Northern Ireland during routine surveillance, Jan – Dec 2025.

Ribotype	Jan - Mar 2025		Apr - Jun 2025		Jul - Sep 2025		Oct - Dec 2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
001	3	5.8	0	0.0	2	2.2	2	2.4
002	9	17.3	10	17.5	8	9.0	7	8.2
005	3	5.8	1	1.8	9	10.1	11	12.9
011	2	3.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	1	1.2
014	6	11.5	7	12.3	7	7.9	6	7.1
015	2	3.8	5	8.8	9	10.1	8	9.4
018	0	0.0	1	1.8	4	4.5	2	2.4
020	0	0.0	6	10.5	4	4.5	7	8.2
023	1	1.9	4	7.0	8	9.0	7	8.2
027	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2
078-like*	6	11.5	8	14.0	9	10.1	5	5.9
Other	8	15.4	9	15.8	21	23.6	19	22.4
Not groupable**	4	7.7	3	5.3	2	2.2	6	7.1
Not on ribotype list	8	15.4	2	3.5	5	5.6	3	3.5
Not isolated***	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0
Total	52		57		89		85	

* 078-Like means this isolate is PCR ribotype 078, or a very closely related (Clade 5) strain e.g. 126,193

** 'Not groupable' ribotypes do not match existing profiles

*** 'Not isolated' indicates isolates that have no ribotype information supplied, with at least six weeks since the date of the specimen.

Table 3: Descriptive data for *C. difficile* ribotypes 015, 002, 078-Like* and 005 in Northern Ireland Hospital Inpatients and Community Patients, Oct-Dec 2025.

	015 (n= 20)		002 (n= 18)		078-like* (n= 17)		005 (n= 17)	
Age								
range	26-83		8-97		57-95		36-96	
median	73		75		85		74	
Sex								
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Female	14	70.0	9	50.0	8	47.1	11	64.7
Male	6	30.0	9	50.0	9	52.9	6	35.3
Trust								
Belfast	5	25.0	8	44.4	6	35.3	4	23.5
Northern	2	10.0	1	5.6	4	23.5	3	17.6
South Eastern	7	35.0	2	11.1	4	23.5	8	47.1
Southern	4	20.0	4	22.2	2	11.8	1	5.9
Western	2	10.0	3	16.7	1	5.9	1	5.9
Source								
Inpatient	12	60.0	11	61.1	12	70.6	6	35.3
Community~	8	40.0	7	38.9	5	29.4	11	64.7

~ Community specimens include those taken from Accident and Emergency (<2days after decision to admit date and those not admitted), Outpatients, GPs, Hospice, Care Homes, Hospital Care at Home and Psychiatric facilities.

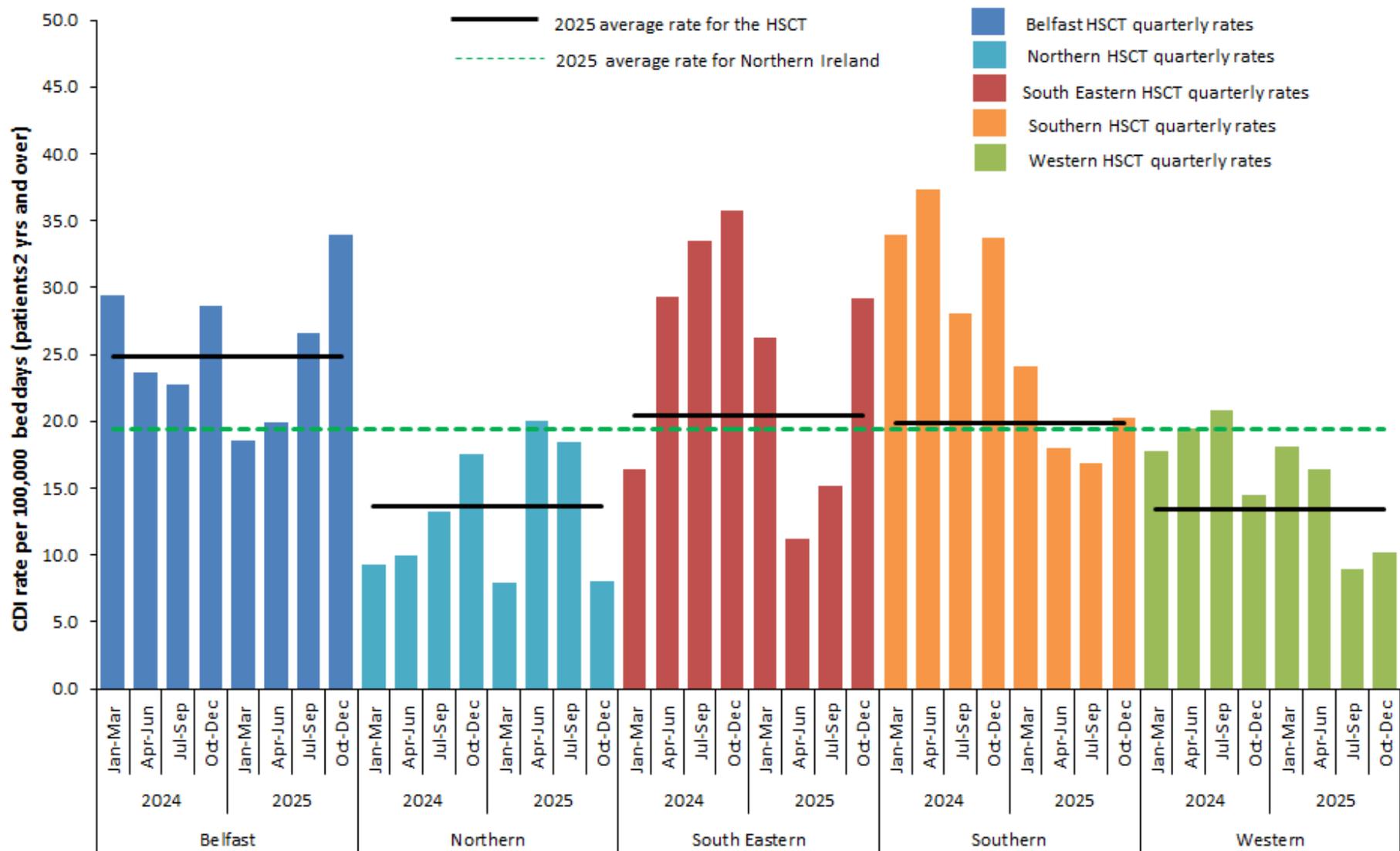


Figure 4: Quarterly rates of *C. difficile* among inpatients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT, January 2024 – December 2025, compared with annual Northern Ireland and HSCT rates for 2025

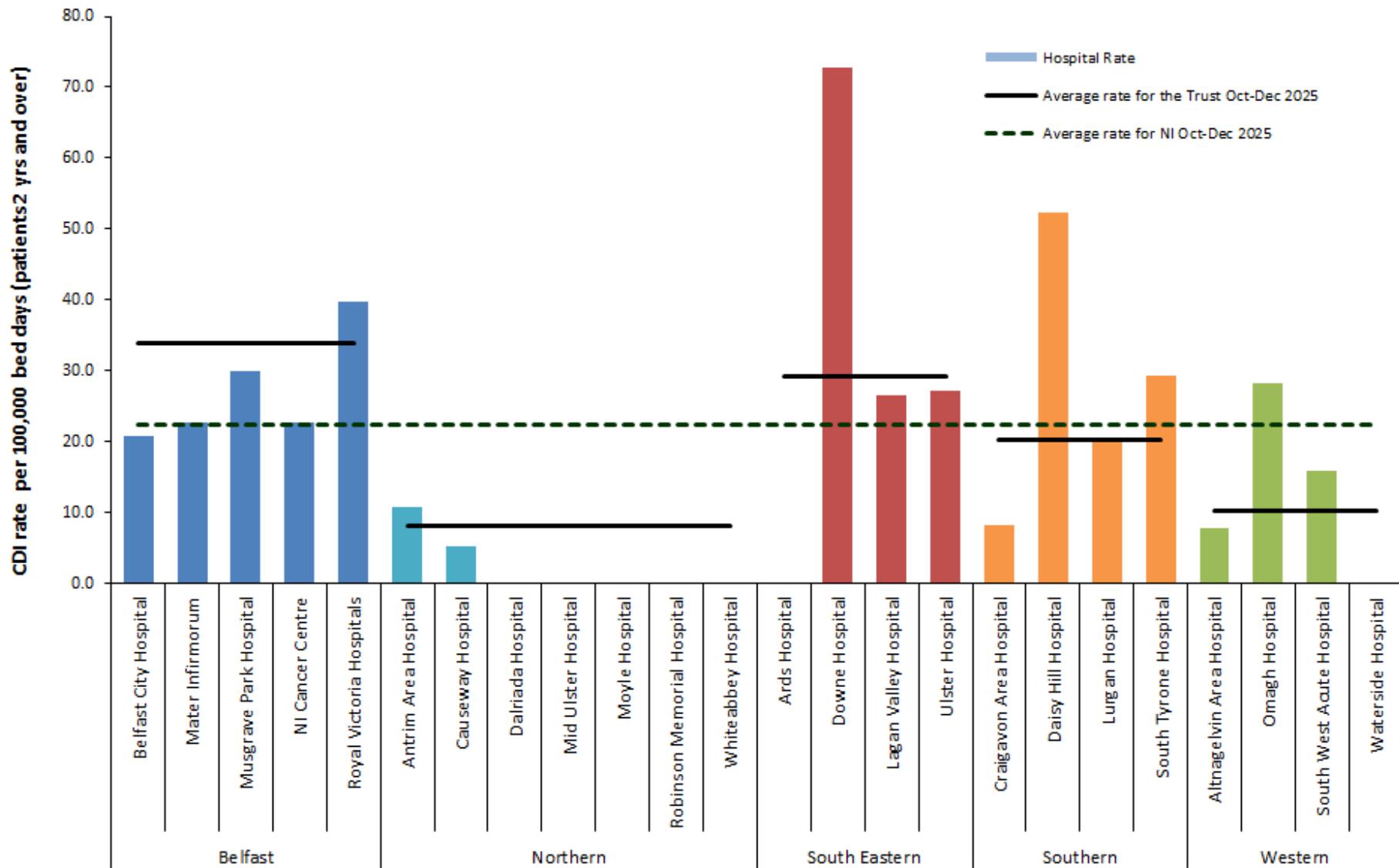


Figure 5: *C. difficile* rates during October-December 2025 Inpatients aged 2 years and over, by hospital, including HSCT rates and average rate for Northern Ireland (see appendix A, Table 4)

Appendix A

Table 4: Quarterly rates* of *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 2 years and over, by hospital, Jan-Dec 2025.

Hospital	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025
Belfast City Hospital	37.52	7.56	59.69	20.84
Mater Infirmorum	19.28	34.98	23.22	22.70
Musgrave Park Hospital	11.14	23.88	24.27	30.06
NICCO	22.01	0.00	22.17	22.68
Royal Group of Hospitals	16.67	18.98	22.94	39.78
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	18.55	19.88	26.54	33.93
Antrim Area Hospital	8.45	25.12	18.71	10.73
Causeway Hospital	5.17	15.78	26.02	5.15
Dalriada Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mid Ulster Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moyle Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robinson Memorial Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whiteabbey Hospital	50.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	7.94	20.04	18.48	8.08
Ards Hospital	63.69	0.00	62.66	0.00
Downe Hospital	17.06	24.24	76.32	72.78
Lagan Valley Hospital	25.93	13.05	39.96	26.49
Ulster Hospital	26.26	10.29	6.75	27.21
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	26.29	11.16	15.21	29.13
Craigavon Area Hospital	18.59	23.10	14.75	8.24
Daisy Hill Hospital	39.89	6.11	19.20	52.40
Lurgan Hospital	20.37	20.52	41.37	20.24
South Tyrone Hospital	26.90	0.00	0.00	29.39
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	24.13	17.97	16.80	20.26
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	18.31	25.91	10.65	7.81
Omagh Hospital	0.00	0.00	29.48	28.33
South West Acute Hospital	26.51	5.48	5.38	15.86
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	18.05	16.45	8.93	10.18
NI TOTAL	18.89	17.55	18.84	22.45

Table 5: Quarterly *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT, Jan-Dec 2025.

Trust	Jan-Mar 2025 Episodes	Apr-Jun 2025 Episodes	Jul-Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct-Dec 2025 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	24	27	38	47
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	6	15	14	6
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	19	8	11	21
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	18	13	12	15
Western Health & Social Care Trust	12	11	6	7
NI TOTAL	79	74	81	96
NI community TOTAL	52	57	89	85

*Note: Rates displayed are per 100,000 occupied bed days.

Bed day data were not available for NHSCT, SHSCT and WHSCT - provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Oct-Dec 2024).

Appendix A

Table 6: Quarterly rates* of *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 65 years and over, by hospital, Jan-Dec 2025.

Hospital	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025
Belfast City Hospital	35.20	0.00	71.53	32.56
Mater Infirmorum	25.28	50.82	25.90	32.88
Musgrave Park Hospital	8.71	28.06	34.88	33.18
NICCO	0.00	0.00	53.50	0.00
Royal Group of Hospitals	14.67	27.90	43.28	60.84
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	16.64	28.96	41.55	47.55
Antrim Area Hospital	14.22	30.10	21.79	13.03
Causeway Hospital	0.00	24.15	23.59	0.00
Dalriada Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mid Ulster Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moyle Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robinson Memorial Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whiteabbey Hospital	69.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	10.71	24.01	19.31	8.04
Ards Hospital	63.69	0.00	64.60	0.00
Downe Hospital	26.10	24.61	80.95	55.62
Lagan Valley Hospital	30.92	14.94	45.63	30.27
Ulster Hospital	33.71	10.91	8.19	38.51
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	33.71	12.20	20.63	37.37
Craigavon Area Hospital	17.73	36.44	21.76	7.17
Daisy Hill Hospital	44.53	10.36	10.01	64.39
Lurgan Hospital	21.62	23.43	46.66	22.41
South Tyrone Hospital	28.28	0.00	0.00	31.65
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	25.22	26.76	19.85	23.72
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	25.07	26.28	8.75	12.66
Omagh Hospital	0.00	0.00	29.90	31.44
South West Acute Hospital	25.45	7.13	7.12	14.44
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	21.34	15.98	9.00	13.38
NI TOTAL	21.10	22.22	23.86	28.16

Table 7: Quarterly *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 65 years and over, by HSCT, Jan-Dec 2025.

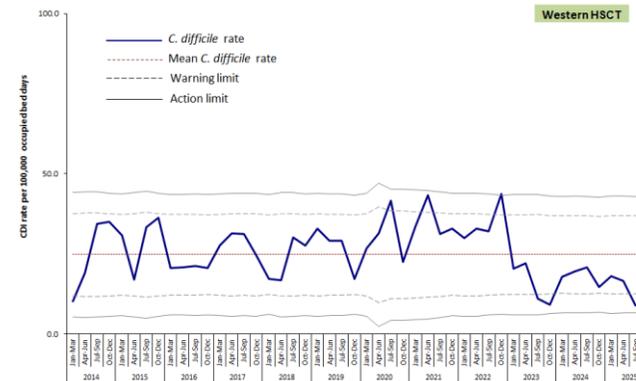
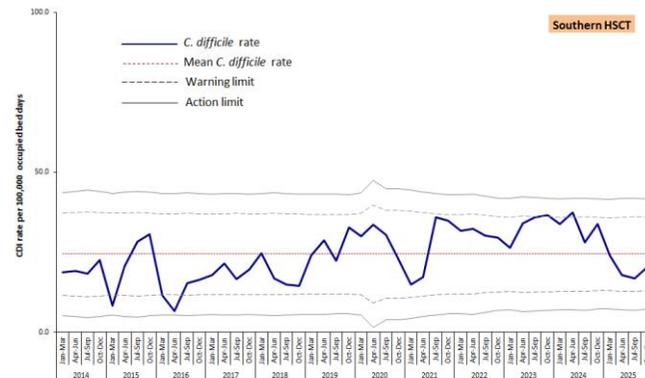
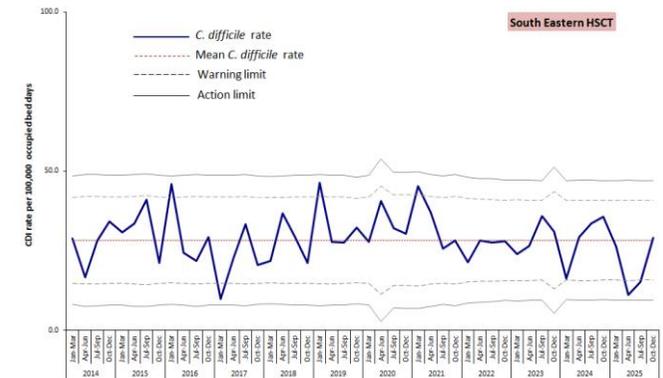
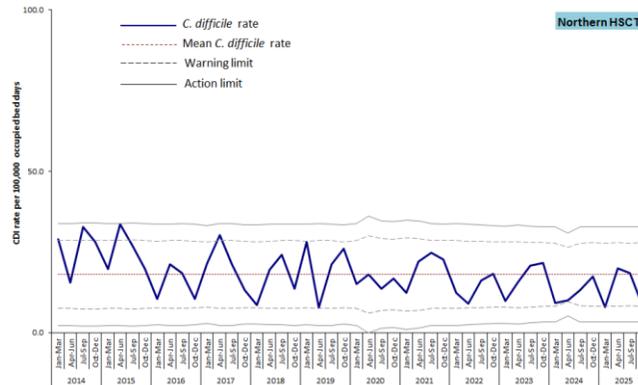
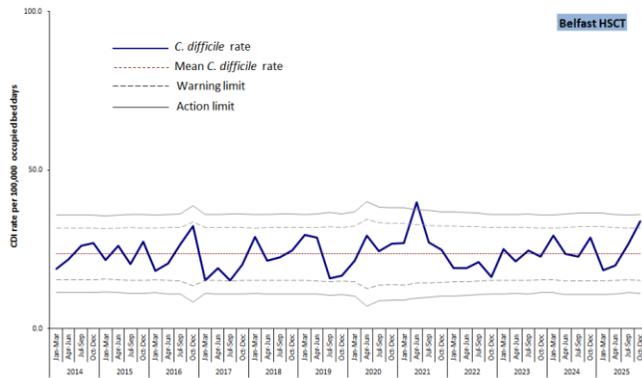
Trust	Jan-Mar 2025 Episodes	Apr-Jun 2025 Episodes	Jul-Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct-Dec 2025 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	12	20	29	35
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	5	12	10	4
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	16	6	10	18
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	12	12	9	11
Western Health & Social Care Trust	10	7	4	6
NI TOTAL	55	57	62	74
NI community TOTAL	47	41	70	62

*Note: Rates displayed are per 100,000 occupied bed days.

Bed day data for patients aged 65 years and over were not available for NHSCT, SHSCT and WHSCT - provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Oct-Dec 2024).

Appendix B

Trends in *C. difficile* rates in inpatients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT and quarter, 2014 – 2025



Appendix C

Table 8: *C. difficile* reports among inpatients* in Northern Ireland aged 2 years and over, by financial year and HSCT

HSCT	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2024/25*
Belfast	132	106	101	128	107	136	121
Northern	57	47	34	52	37	49	39
South Eastern	82	72	76	69	75	72	90
Southern	43	71	50	74	80	99	90
Western	65	63	66	80	81	39	49
Northern Ireland	379	359	327	403	380	395	389

Table 9: *C. difficile* reports among inpatients* in Northern Ireland aged 65 years and over, by financial year and HSCT

HSCT	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2024/25*
Belfast	98	80	80	84	78	96	78
Northern	48	39	27	39	31	43	32
South Eastern	67	68	68	60	66	63	83
Southern	32	57	37	56	63	78	66
Western	41	45	51	58	66	30	40
Northern Ireland	286	289	263	297	304	310	299

*“Inpatient episodes” for 2023/24 and 2024/25 include all patients categorised as hospital in-patient and ED patients with a positive specimen taken \geq 2 days after the decision to admit date. Previous years include inpatients only.