

S. aureus bacteraemia surveillance

Quarterly report

January - March 2026

Key points

- Overall *S. aureus* (SA) rates for Northern Ireland (MRSA plus MSSA bacteraemias) decreased by approximately 10% during January-March 2026 compared to October-December 2025.
- MRSA rates decreased by approximately 40% during January-March 2026 compared to October-December 2025.
- MRSA reports during 2025/26 decreased by 36% compared to 2024/25.
- MSSA rates decreased by approximately 7% during January-March 2026 compared to October-December 2025.
- MSSA reports during 2025/26 increased by 0.4% compared to 2024/25.
- Bed day data were not available for NHSCT, SHSCT and WHSCT and provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Jan-Mar 2025).

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

***S. aureus* bacteraemia surveillance**

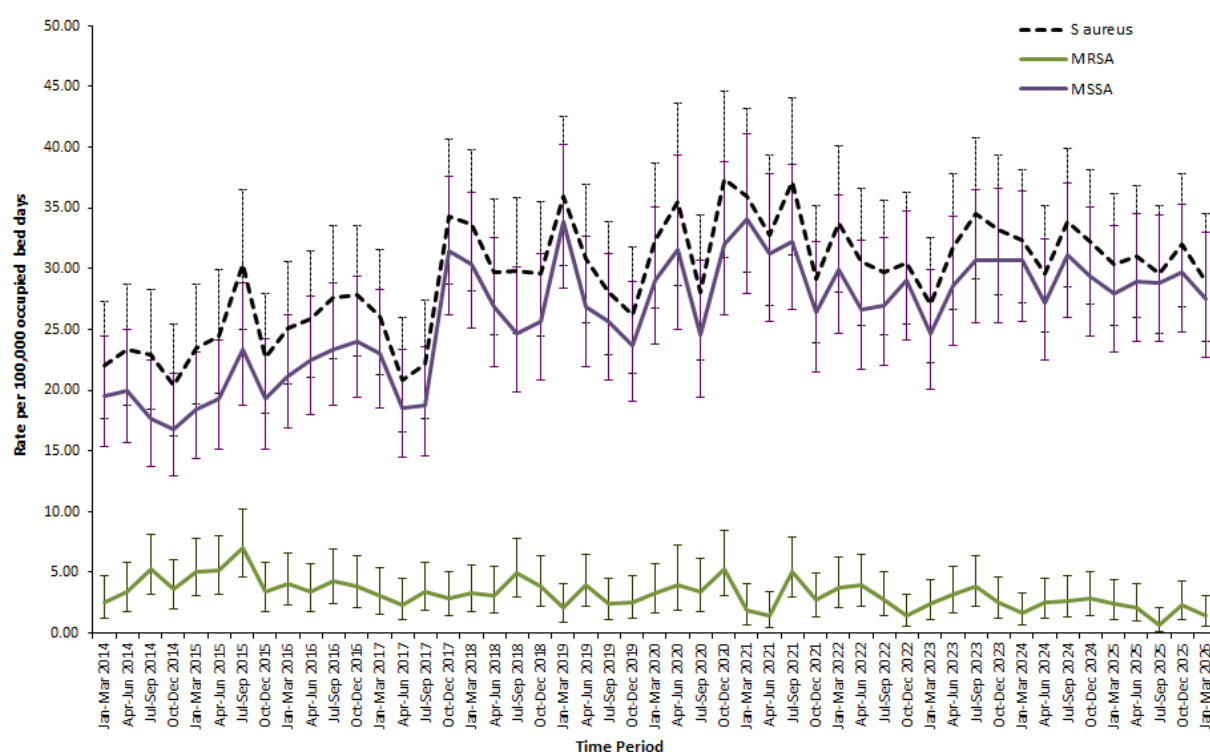


Figure 1: MSSA, MRSA and *S. aureus* rates in Northern Ireland by quarter, with 95% confidence intervals, Jan 2014 – Mar 2026 (see Appendix 3)

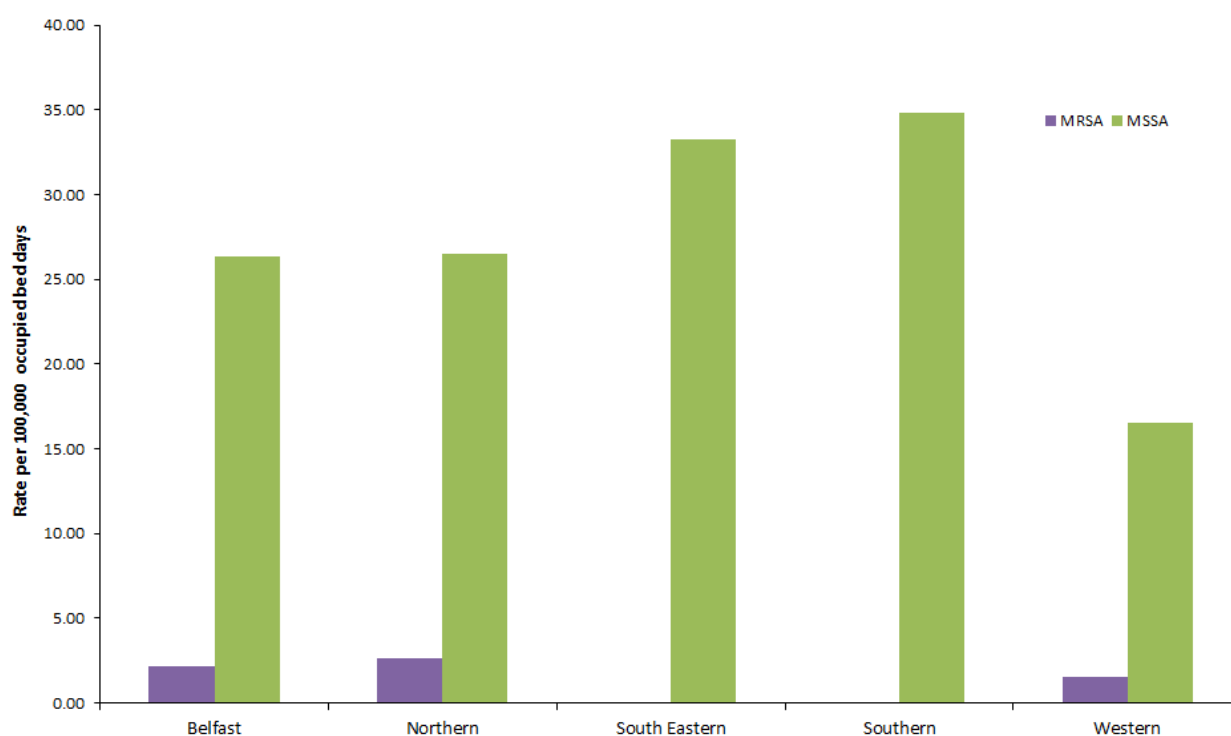


Figure 2: MRSA and MSSA rates per 100,000 occupied bed days, by HSCT, Jan-Mar 2026.

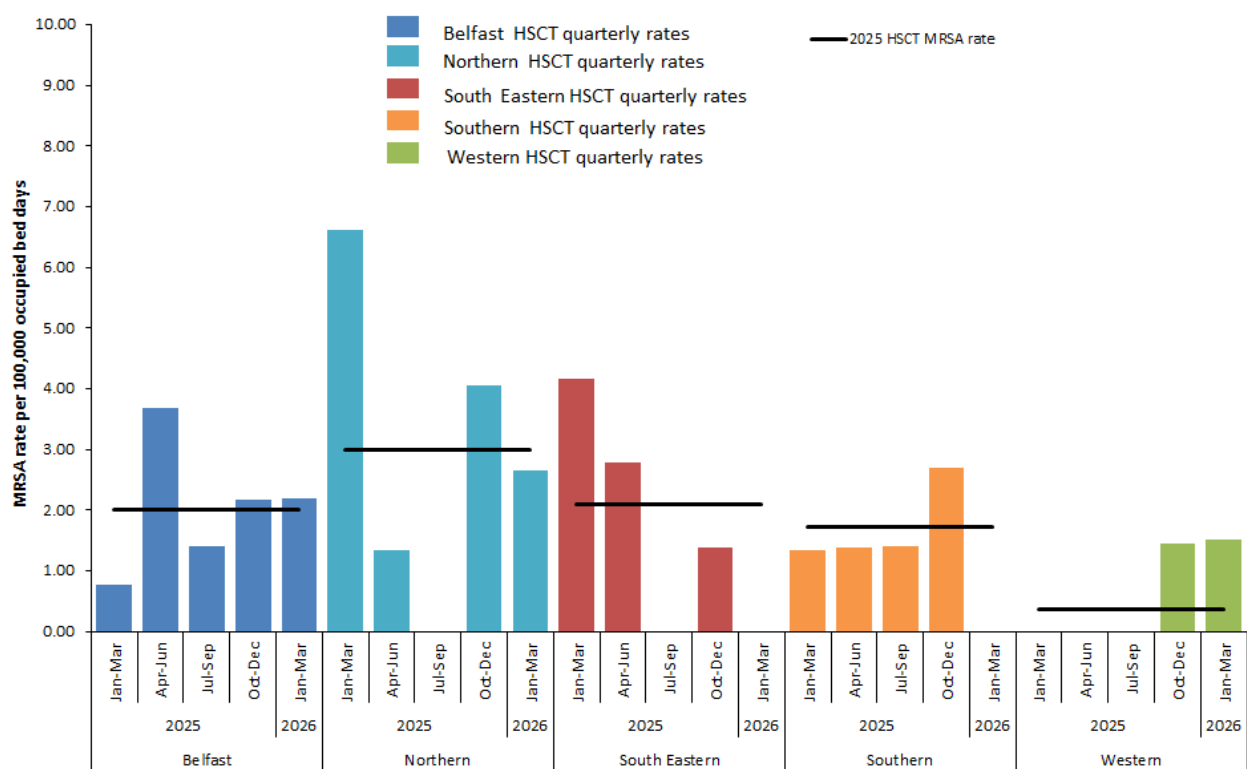


Figure 3: MRSA quarterly rate Jan 2025 – Mar 2026, by HSCT, with 2025 HSCT MRSA rate

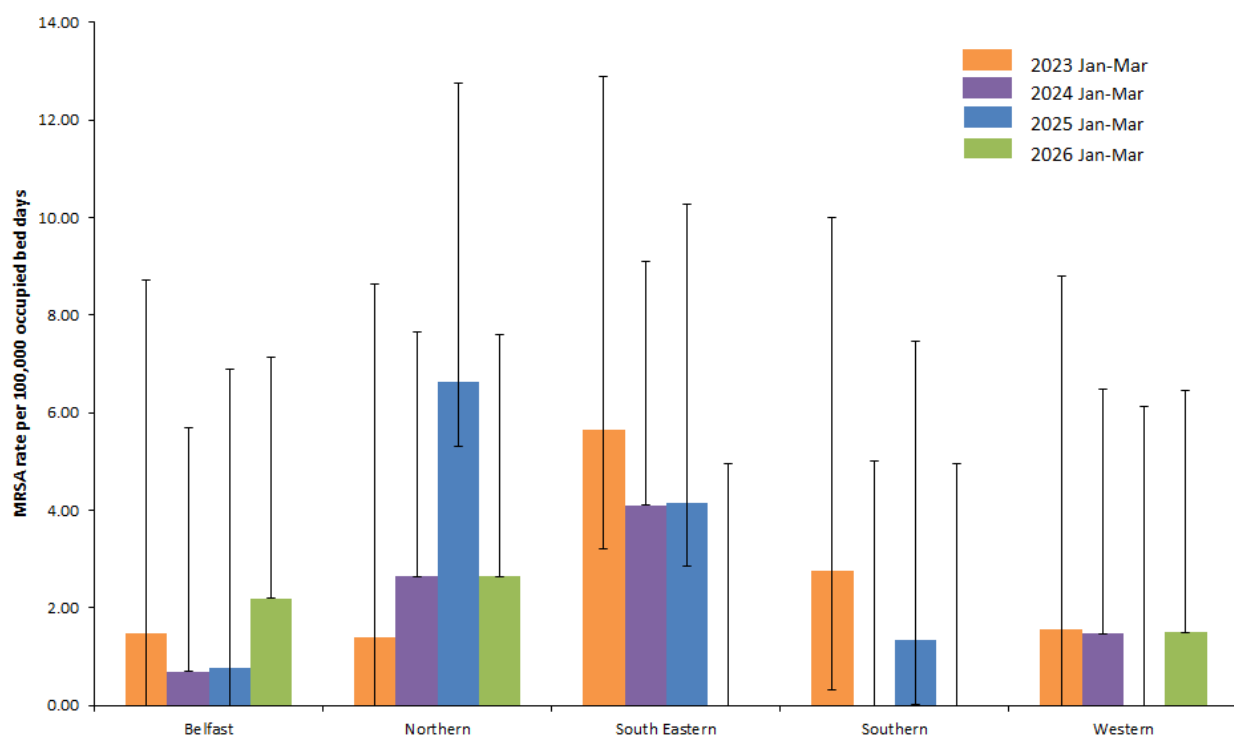


Figure 4: MRSA rate during Jan-Mar, by HSCT, from 2023–2026, with 95% confidence intervals

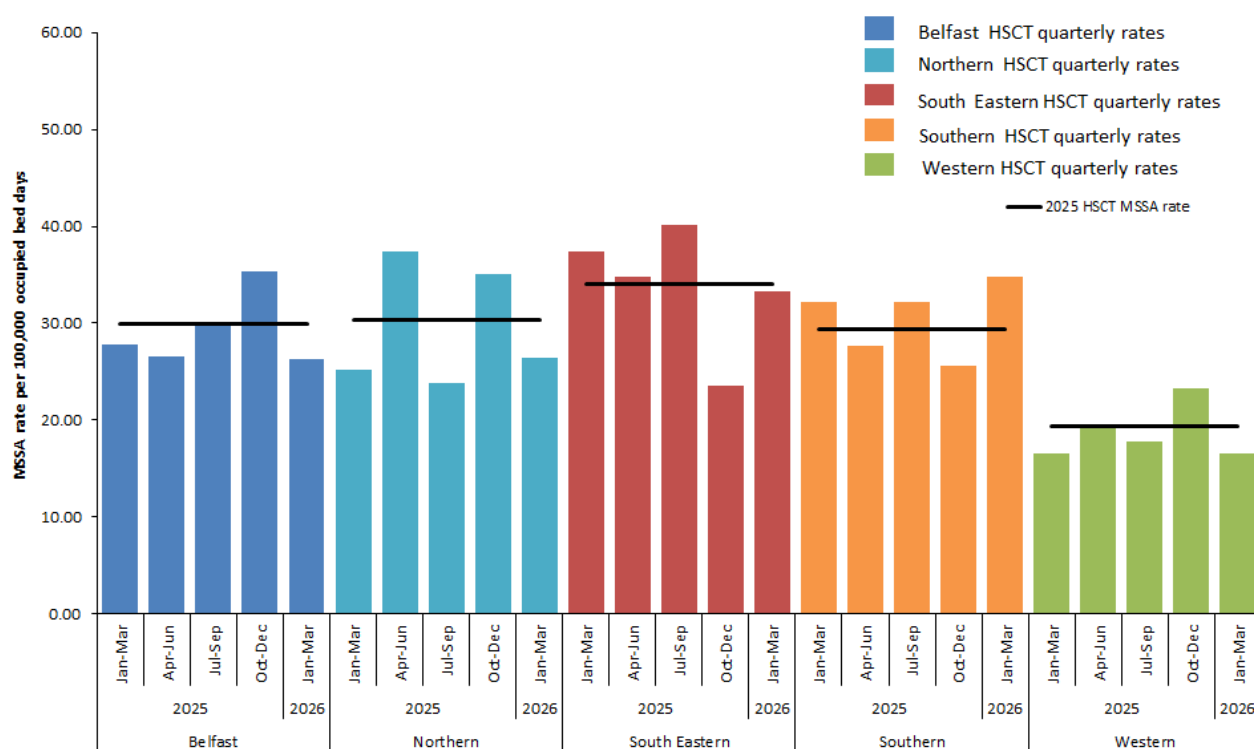


Figure 5: MSSA quarterly rate Jan 2025 – Mar 2026, by HSCT, with 2025 HSCT MSSA rate

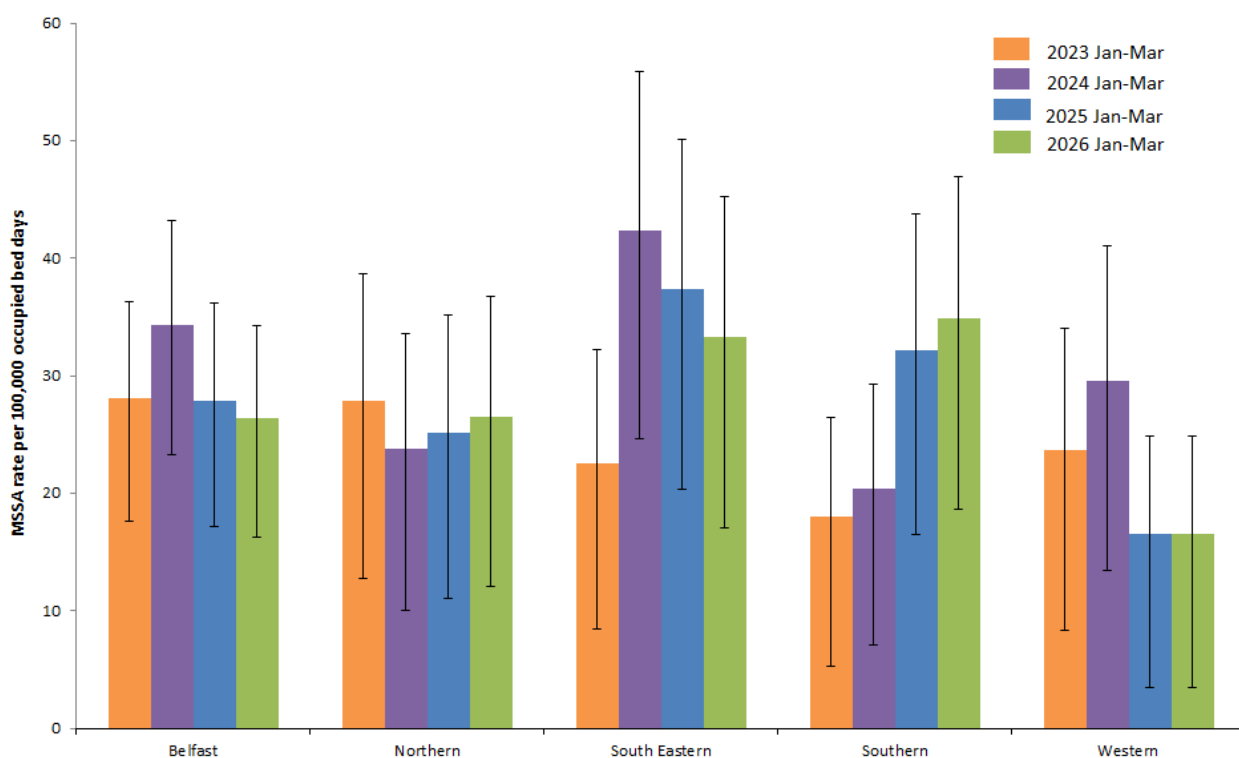


Figure 6: MSSA rate during Jan-Mar, by HSCT, from 2023–2026, with 95% confidence interval

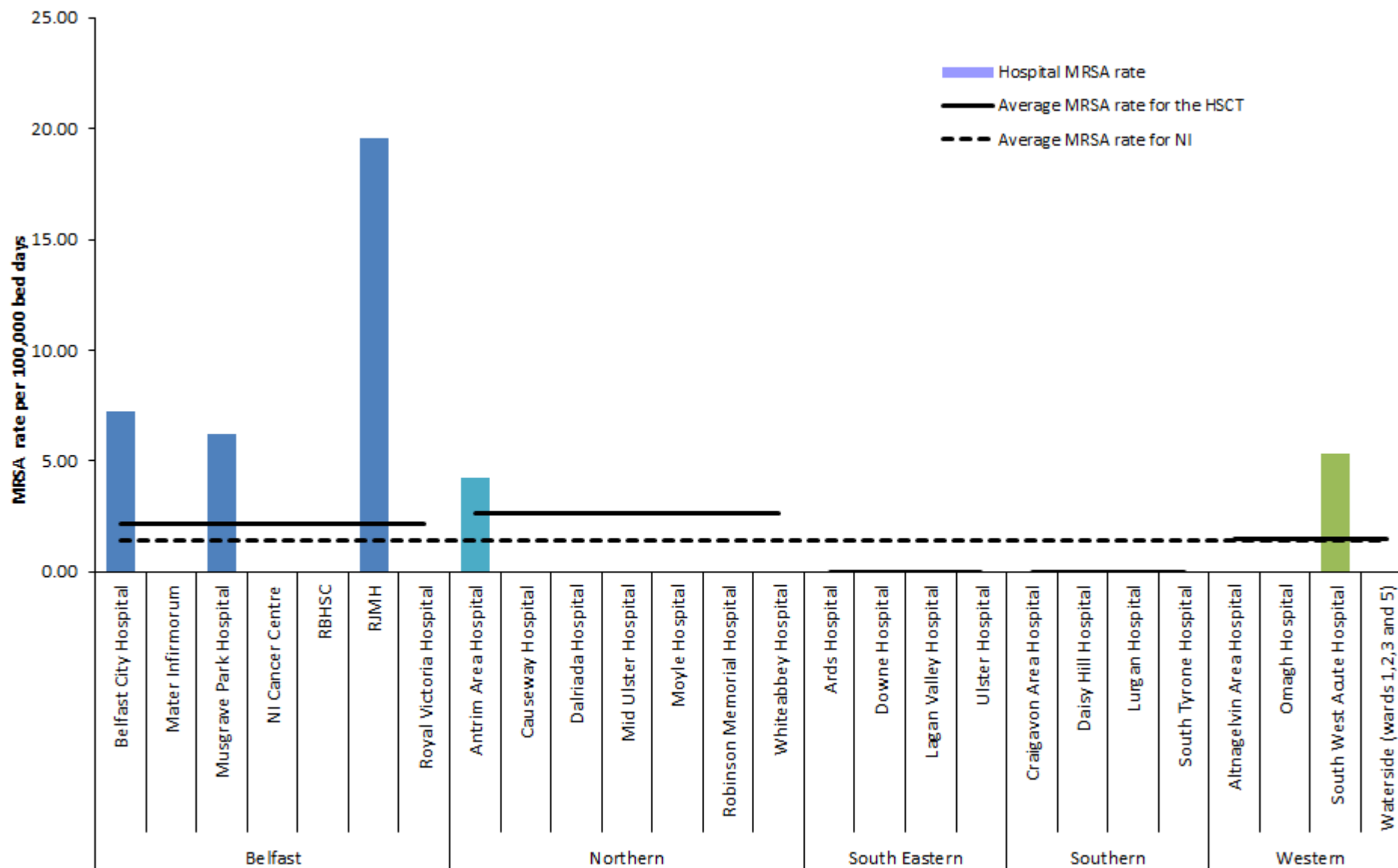


Figure 7: Rates of MRSA, January-March 2026 by individual hospitals, (gaps represent zero episodes), compared to January-March 2026 average rates for Northern Ireland and HSCTs

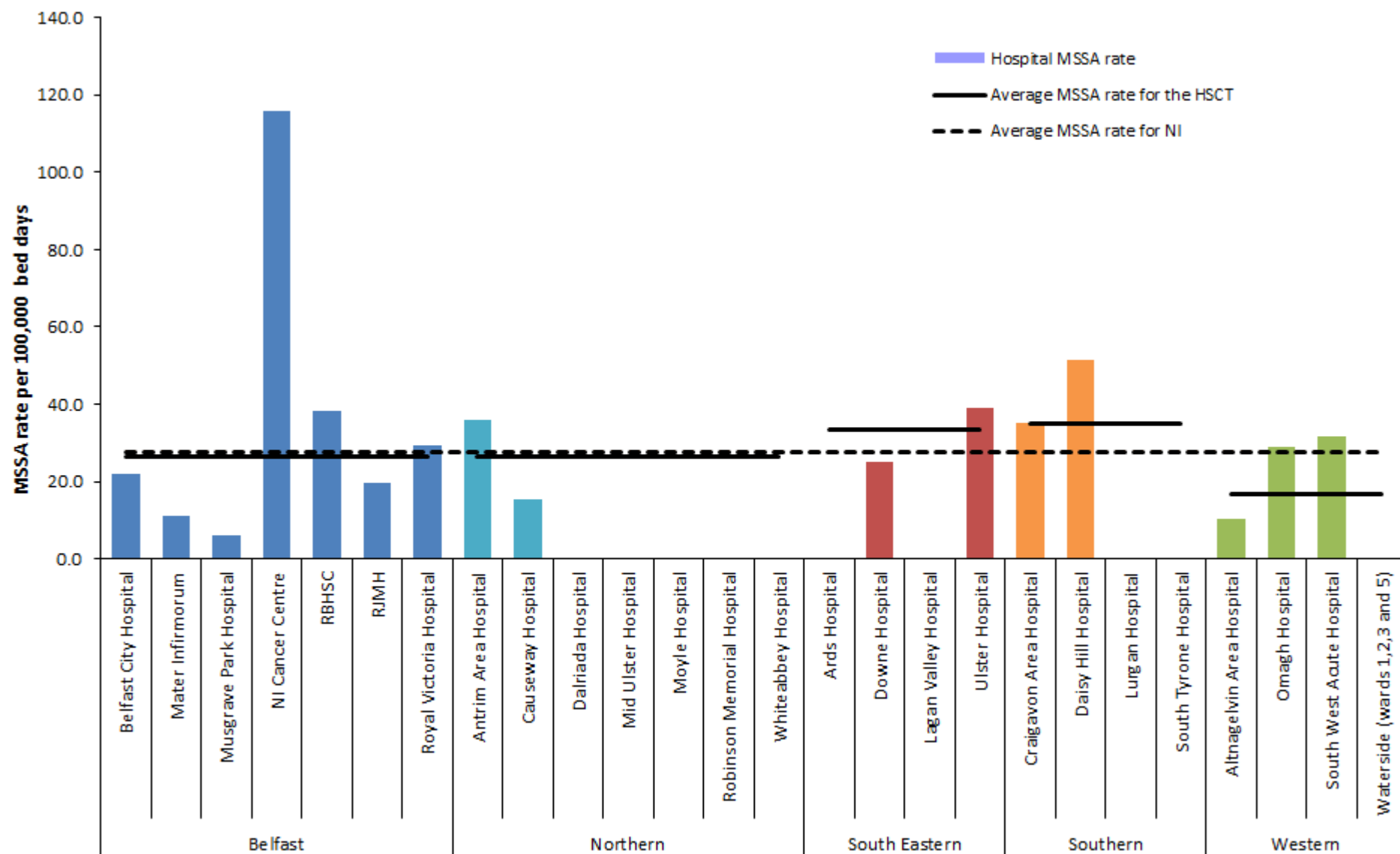


Figure 8: Rates of MSSA, January-March 2026 by individual hospitals, (gaps represent zero episodes), compared to January-March 2026 average rates for Northern Ireland and HSCTs

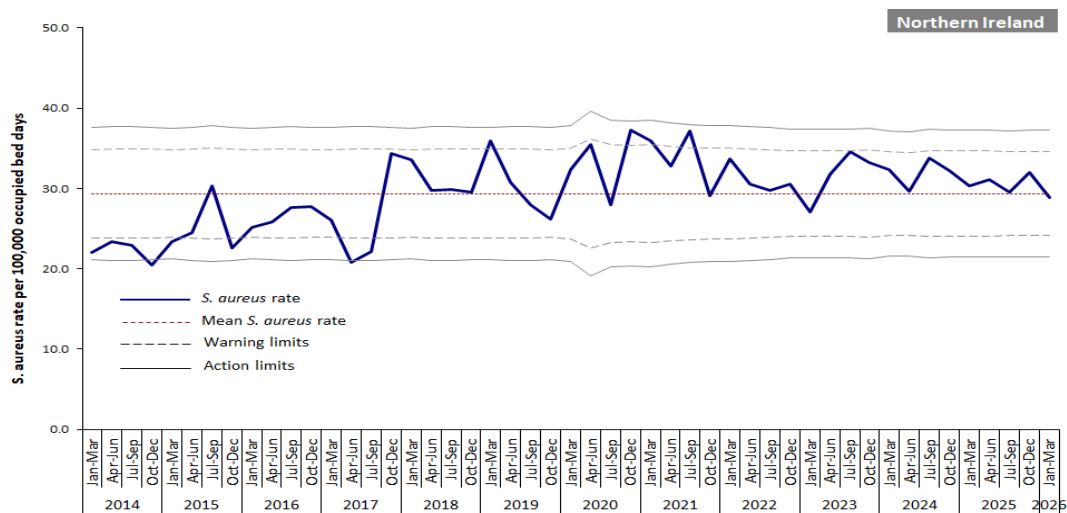


Figure 9a: Statistical process control chart for quarterly *S. aureus* rates in Northern Ireland

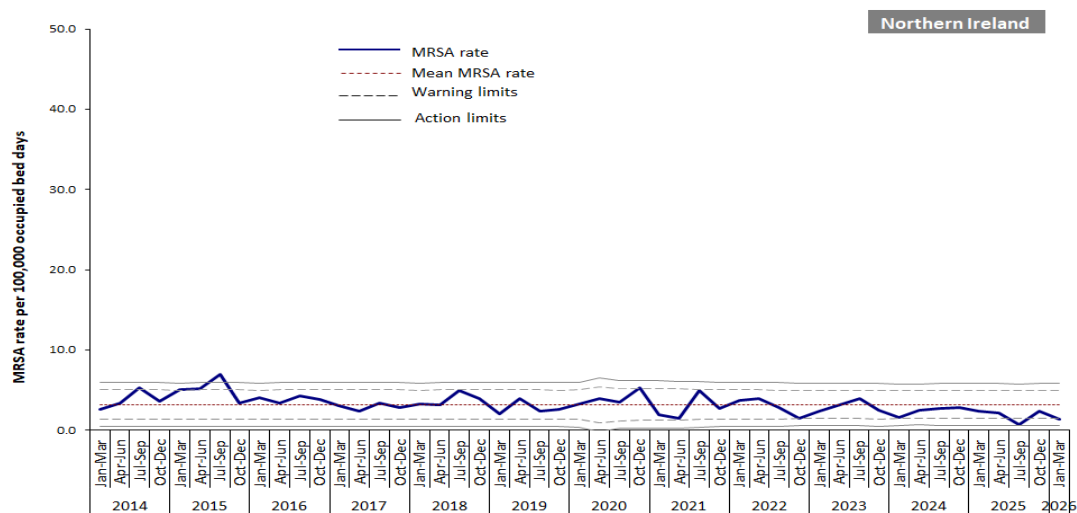


Figure 9b: Statistical process control chart for quarterly MRSA rates in Northern Ireland

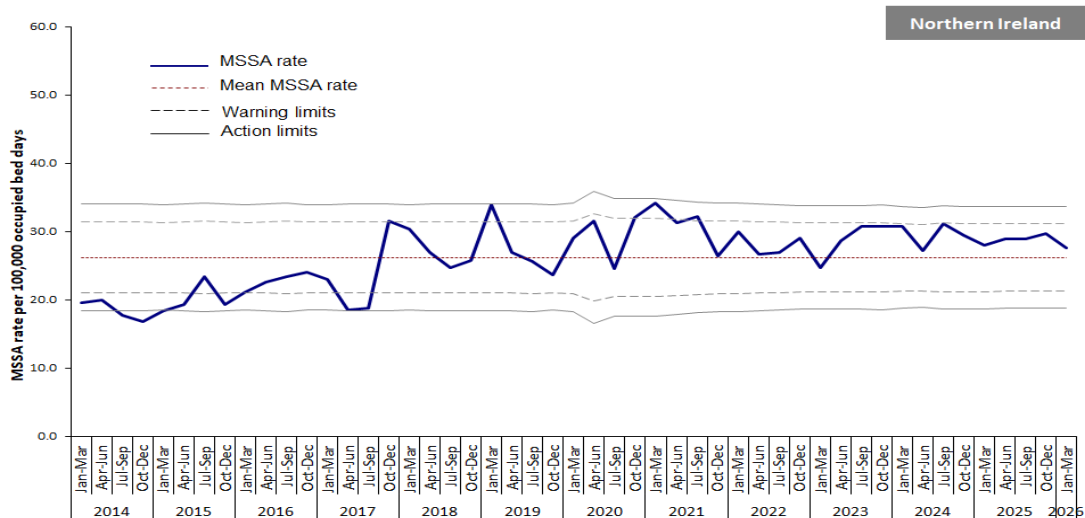


Figure 9c: Statistical process control chart for quarterly MSSA rates in Northern Ireland

Appendix 1

Table 1: Quarterly rates* of MRSA patient episodes, by hospital, Apr 2025-Mar 2026

Hospital	Apr - Jun 2025	Jul - Sep 2025	Oct - Dec 2025	Jan - Mar 2026
Belfast City Hospital	0.00	0.00	6.95	7.27
Mater Infirmorum	0.00	0.00	5.68	0.00
Musgrave Park Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.25
NICCO	22.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
RBHSC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RJMH	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.59
Royal Group of Hospitals	5.62	2.56	1.38	0.00
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	3.68	1.40	2.17	2.20
Antrim Area Hospital	2.09	0.00	4.29	4.22
Causeway Hospital	0.00	0.00	5.15	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	1.34	0.00	4.04	2.65
Ards Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Downe Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lagan Valley Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ulster Hospital	3.43	0.00	1.70	0.00
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	2.79	0.00	1.39	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital	0.00	2.11	2.06	0.00
Daisy Hill Hospital	6.11	0.00	5.82	0.00
Lurgan Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Tyrone Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	1.38	1.40	2.70	0.00
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Omagh Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South West Acute Hospital	0.00	0.00	5.29	5.30
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	0.00	0.00	1.45	1.50
NI TOTAL	2.13	0.70	2.34	1.41

Table 2: Quarterly MRSA patient episodes, by HSCT, Apr 2025-Mar 2026

Trust	Apr - Jun 2025 Episodes	Jul - Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct - Dec 2025 Episodes	Jan - Mar 2026 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	5	2	3	3
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	1	0	3	2
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	2	0	1	0
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	1	1	2	0
Western Health & Social Care Trust	0	0	1	1
NI TOTAL	9	3	10	6

*Bed day data were not available for NHSCT, SHSCT and WHSCT – provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Jan-Mar 2025).

Appendix 1

Table 3: Quarterly rates* of MSSA patient episodes, by hospital, Apr 2025-Mar 2026

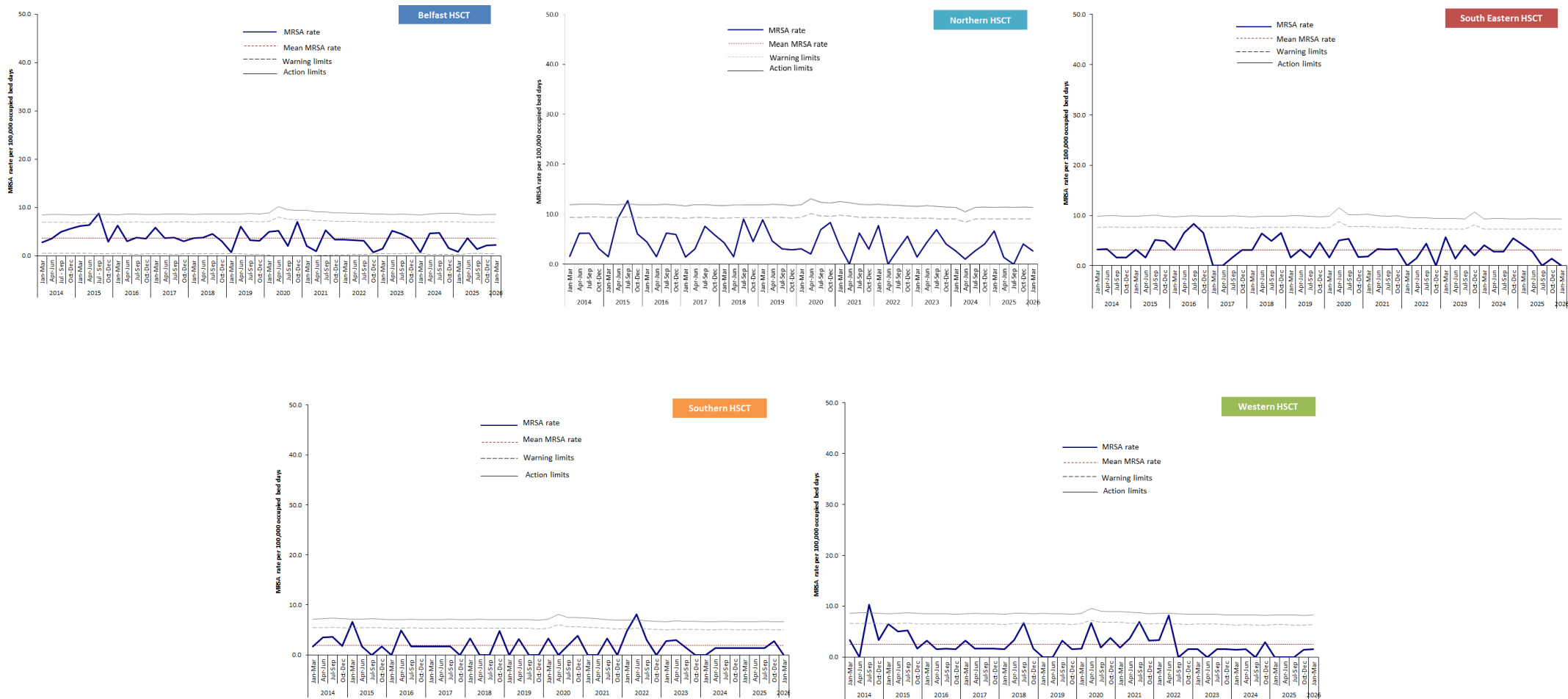
Hospital	Apr - Jun 2025	Jul - Sep 2025	Oct - Dec 2025	Jan - Mar 2026
Belfast City Hospital	15.13	7.46	34.74	21.81
Mater Infirmorum	17.49	29.02	28.38	11.19
Musgrave Park Hospital	11.94	0.00	0.00	6.25
NICCO	68.03	44.34	45.35	115.69
RBHSC	25.46	85.24	26.98	38.44
RJMH	0.00	0.00	17.36	19.59
Royal Group of Hospitals	33.71	35.91	47.03	29.25
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	26.50	30.03	35.37	26.34
Antrim Area Hospital	37.69	27.02	38.64	35.90
Causeway Hospital	52.60	26.02	41.23	15.52
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	37.40	23.76	35.02	26.47
Ards Hospital	0.00	62.66	0.00	0.00
Downe Hospital	24.24	25.44	0.00	24.99
Lagan Valley Hospital	26.10	53.28	0.00	0.00
Ulster Hospital	37.72	38.79	28.91	39.07
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	34.87	40.10	23.58	33.28
Craigavon Area Hospital	25.20	29.49	28.85	35.11
Daisy Hill Hospital	48.89	51.21	29.11	51.28
Lurgan Hospital	0.00	20.69	0.00	0.00
South Tyrone Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	27.65	32.20	25.66	34.85
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	15.55	18.64	26.03	10.46
Omagh Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.08
South West Acute Hospital	38.34	26.92	31.71	31.81
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	19.44	17.85	23.26	16.55
NI TOTAL	28.94	29.08	29.69	27.50

Table 4: Quarterly MSSA patient episodes, by HSCT, Apr 2025-Mar 2026

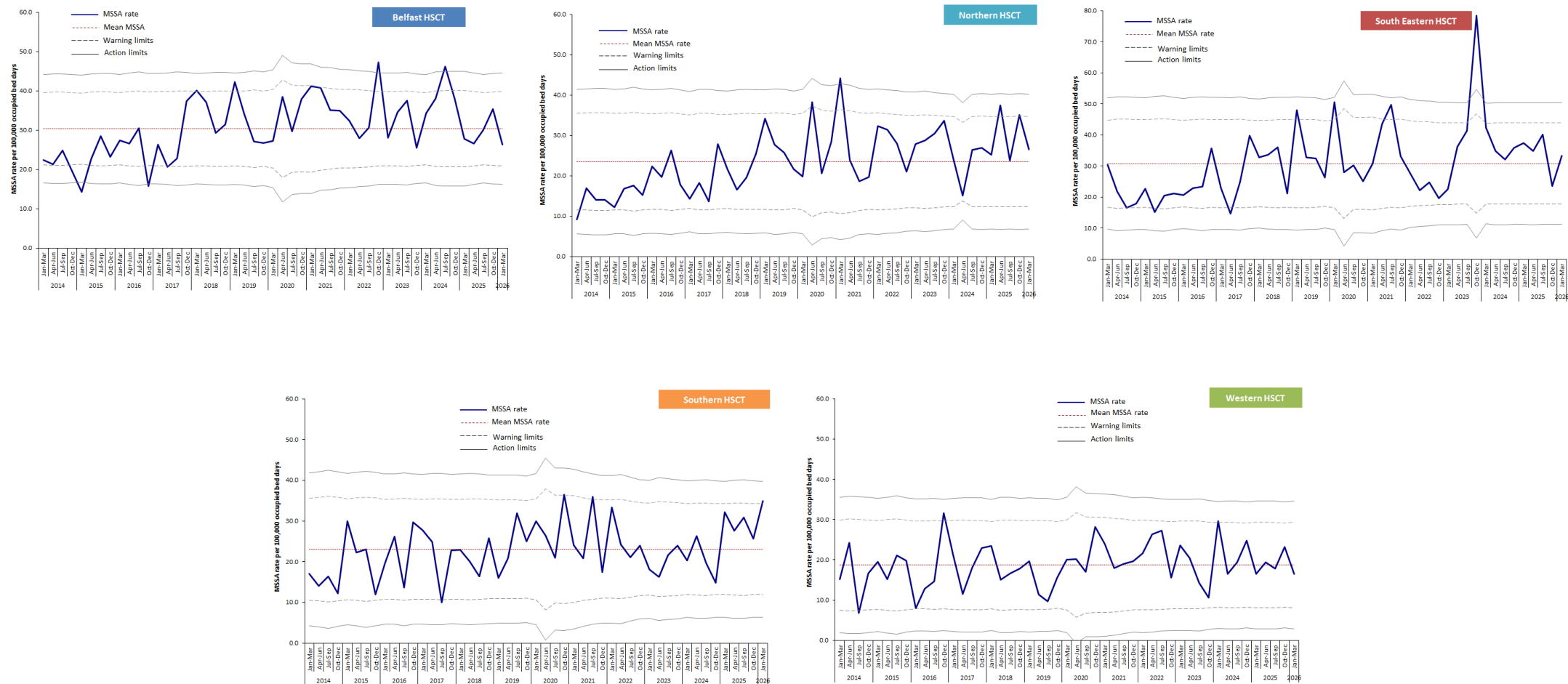
Trust	Apr - Jun 2025 Episodes	Jul - Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct - Dec 2025 Episodes	Jan - Mar 2026 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	36	43	49	36
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	28	18	26	20
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	25	29	17	24
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	20	23	19	26
Western Health & Social Care Trust	13	12	16	11
NI TOTAL	122	125	127	117

*Bed day data were not available for NHSCT, SHSCT and WHSCT – provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Jan-Mar 2025).

Appendix 2: Trends in MRSA rates, by HSCT and quarter, Jan 2014 – Mar 2026



Appendix 2: Trends in MSSA rates, by HSCT and quarter, Jan 2014 – Mar 2026



Appendix 3

Table 5: MSSA, MRSA and total *S. aureus* patient episode rates, and the percentage of *S. aureus* reported as MRSA, in Northern Ireland, Jan 2021 – Mar 2026.

Quarter	MSSA rate	MRSA rate	All <i>S. aureus</i> rate	% MRSA
Jan-Mar 2021	34.09	1.88	35.96	5.2
Apr-Jun 2021	31.29	1.46	32.75	4.5
Jul-Sep 2021	32.21	5.00	37.21	13.4
Oct-Dec 2021	26.42	2.70	29.12	9.3
Jan-Mar 2022	29.98	3.75	33.73	11.1
Apr-Jun 2022	26.66	3.92	30.58	12.8
Jul-Sep 2022	26.96	2.80	29.75	9.4
Oct-Dec 2022	29.06	1.45	30.51	4.8
Jan-Mar 2023	24.64	2.42	27.06	8.9
Apr-June 2023	28.66	3.18	31.84	10.0
Jul-Sep 2023	30.68	3.90	34.57	11.3
Oct-Dec 2023	29.61	2.65	32.02	8.3
Jan-Mar 2024	30.70	1.85	32.32	5.7
Apr-Jun 2024	27.13	2.49	29.62	8.4
Jul-Sep 2024	31.18	2.66	33.84	7.9
Oct-Dec 2024	29.37	2.87	32.23	8.9
Jan-Mar 2025	27.97	2.39	30.36	7.9
Apr-Jun 2025	28.94	2.13	31.07	6.9
Jul-Sep 2025	28.85	0.70	29.54	2.4
Oct-Dec 2025	29.69	2.34	32.03	7.3
Jan-Mar 2026	27.50	1.41	28.91	4.9

Appendix 4

Table 6: MRSA patient episodes for each financial year, by HSCT

HSCT	Financial Year							
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Belfast	16	22	15	15	11	21	15	13
Northern	16	9	12	11	7	13	11	6
South Eastern	12	7	7	6	8	8	11	3
Southern	3	4	3	5	9	3	4	4
Western	7	4	7	10	7	3	3	2
Northern Ireland	54	46	44	47	42	48	44	28

Table 7: MSSA patient episodes for each financial year, by HSCT

HSCT	Financial Year							
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Belfast	189	147	138	166	176	182	194	164
Northern	64	63	73	60	75	85	74	92
South Eastern	85	88	59	95	62	125	101	95
Southern	48	67	54	66	59	58	68	88
Western	42	35	46	46	58	49	52	52
Northern Ireland	428	400	370	433	430	499	489	491