2019/20 Overview: Infection Prevention & Control

The Department has a dedicated Infection Prevention and Control Team that provides expert advice on the management of infection and informs patients, visitors, and staff on strategies to minimise the risk of healthcare associated infection.

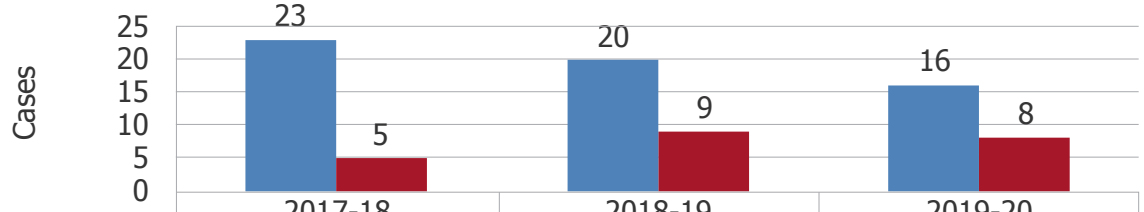
Clostridium Difficile ad MRSA Bloodstream Infections

The number of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) and MRSA Bloodstream Infection (MRSA BSI) continue to be closely monitored. Each individual case is systematically reviewed by a multi professional group overseen by a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team. Any factors identified which have contributed to the case are identified and lessons learned are implemented to make the improvements required.

Clostridium Difficile Infection

The cause of CDI is primarily related to antimicrobial prescribing. A range of actions are in place to minimise the risk of CDI occurring. These include a very clear set of standards described in a DHSC-wide policy. A dedicated pharmacist is employed to deliver specific training to those who prescribe antibiotics and regular audits and monitoring take place to measure how well the policy is being followed.

Clostridium Difficile Infection - 2017 to 2020 by year



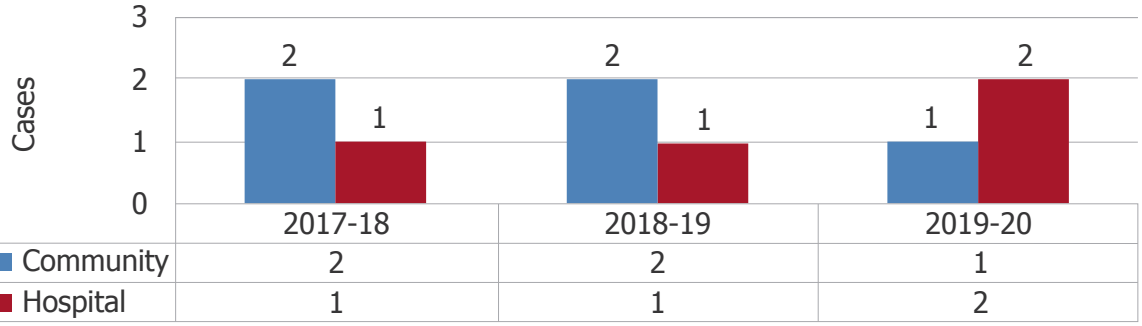
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Community	23	20	16
Hospital	5	9	8

MRSA Blood Stream Infection

There were two cases defined as hospital associated and one case defined as community associated in the 2019/20 year. However, for the three years noted there has been no increase/decrease in the total numbers across the DHSC. The main cause identified for the MRSA bloodstream infection was urinary catheter associated.

The introduction of specific standards to guide staff to provide the best possible care when inserting and caring for urinary catheters known as 'care bundles' are in place and monitored. There are additional plans in place to implement a urinary catheter passport for all patients and residents, which will ensure all staff have quick and easy access to the right information to help to care for those with urinary catheters, with the aim of further reducing infection rates.

MRSA Bloodstream Infections - 2017 to 2020 by year



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Community	2	2	1
Hospital	1	1	2