

## **Infection Prevention & Control Report to Trust Board**

**Meeting Date – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

### **1. Executive Summary**

#### **COVID-19**

The Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) Team continue to be significantly involved with the management of any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, the continued development of COVID-19 pathways, contact tracing and processes and outbreak management. The IP&C Team are also required to continue to support Independent Sector care homes in the event of any declared outbreaks. As a result of the increased demands upon the Team and within the current IP&C resources, there are challenges in attending to other routine work.

#### **Reduction Targets**

The Department of Health for Northern Ireland (NI) has not yet issued new reduction targets for healthcare-associated infections in 2021/22. These targets relate to *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) associated disease, Meticillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia and gram-negative bacteraemia (GNB), specifically *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella species* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

#### **Current *C. difficile* Performance**

So far this year 67 cases of *C. difficile* have been reported. 39 of the cases are classified as healthcare-acquired or associated as they occurred more than 72 hours after admission to hospital (definition used by the Public Health Agency [PHA]). However, this is not always an accurate predictor of being healthcare-associated. The remainder (28) are classified as community-acquired as the patients presented with symptoms within a 72 hour period after admission.

#### **Current MRSA Bacteraemia Performance**

Since the beginning of April 2021 eight MRSA bacteraemia cases have been reported. Five are categorised as community-associated as they occurred less than 48 hours after admission to hospital and three are categorised as healthcare-associated as they occurred more than 48 hours after admission to hospital (definition used by the PHA).

#### **Current GNB Performance**

As of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 33 healthcare-associated GNB cases have been reported.

### **2. Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

#### **Outbreak Management**

COVID-19 outbreaks continue to be declared in Trust wards, departments and facilities. The number of affected areas has increased significantly in the last few weeks. The IP&C Team, in conjunction with Occupational Health and/ or Contact Tracing, are supporting the management of these incidents as applicable. Incident meetings are taking place and all IP&C measures have been instigated. Recently affected areas include:

*NB: Official closure of an outbreak is deemed to be 28 days from the last positive case. However,*

depending on the circumstances, Trust Outbreak Control Teams may decide to close outbreaks earlier than this, e.g. if subsequent screening results are negative and there is no evidence of ongoing transmission.

Ward/ Department/ Facility	Date of Commencement	Date of Closure	People Affected
Ward 40, Altnagelvin	10/12/2021	01/01/2022	Patients
Community Social Work Team for Adult Learning Disability	15/12/2021	13/01/2022	Staff
Ward 9, SWAH	15/12/2021	19/01/2022	Patients & Staff
Avoca Lodge, Gransha Park	16/12/2021	10/01/2022	Staff
Chapel Road Children's Home, Derry	20/12/2021	06/01/2022	Resident & Staff
Ward 3, SWAH	20/12/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ward 5, SWAH	21/12/2021	06/01/2022	Staff
Ward 50, Altnagelvin	21/12/2021	08/01/2022	Staff
Ward 44, Altnagelvin	21/12/2021	Ongoing	Patient & Staff
Melvin & Strule, Lakeview	21/12/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Greenfield Residential Home, Strabane	22/12/2021	16/01/2022	Staff
Ballyclose Supported Living, Limavady	22/12/2021	16/01/2022	Staff
The Cottages Children's Home, Derry	22/12/2021	12/01/2022	Residents
Cityside Supported Living, Derry	24/12/2021	14/01/2022	Staff
Ralph's Close, Gransha Park	26/12/2021	20/01/2022	Staff
Physical and Sensory Support Social Work Team, Oldbridge House, Derry	27/12/2021	20/01/2022	Staff
William Street Residential Home, Derry	27/12/2021	12/01/2022	Resident & Staff
Ward 4, Waterside	27/12/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Seymour Gardens Residential Home, Derry	28/12/2021	14/01/2022	Resident & Staff
Rathview Mews, Omagh	29/12/2021	20/01/22	Staff
Ward 40, Altnagelvin	29/12/2022	12/01/2022	Staff
Ward 3, Waterside	30/12/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ward 4, Altnagelvin	30/12/2021	20/01/2022	Patients & Staff
Ward 1, Waterside	31/12/2021	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ward 2, SWAH	01/01/2022	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ward 7, SWAH	01/01/2022	Ongoing	Patient & Staff
Mantlin Court, Kesh	02/01/2022	17/01/2022	Staff
Ward 42, Altnagelvin	04/01/2022	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ash Villa, T&F	04/01/2022	Ongoing	Patient & Staff
Ward 2, Waterside	04/01/2022	Ongoing	Patients & Staff
Ward 23 TOU, Altnagelvin	05/01/2022	14/01/2022	Patient & Staff
Palliative Care Ward, OHPCC	05/01/2022	19/01/2022	Patient & Staff
ICU, Altnagelvin	07/01/2022	Ongoing	Staff

The key learning themes arising from outbreaks are shared for wider learning across the Trust via the Working Safely Together Group and governance arrangements. They are also incorporated into the ECHO Programme.

The IP&C Team are also required to continue to support Independent Sector care homes in the event of any declared outbreaks. The number of homes affected has increased significantly in

recent weeks, including:

Care Home	Date PHA Notified	Current Status of Outbreak
Barnlee, Lisnaskea	15/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Oakleaves Care Centre, Derry	16/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Hillcrest, Omagh	23/12/2021	Over
Owen Mor Care Centre, Derry	23/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Parkview House, Castlederg	25/12/2021	Ongoing: Terminal cleaning now
Three Rivers Care Centre, Omagh	26/12/2021	Over
Edenvale Care Home, Limavady	26/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Brooklands, Derry	27/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Grann Abbey, Enniskillen	28/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Slieve Na Mon, Omagh	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Terminal cleaning now
Harold McCauley House, Omagh	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Springlawn, Omagh	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Mulhern Close Residential Home, Omagh	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Rush Hall, Limavady	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Cornfield Care Centre 2, Limavady	29/12/2021	Over
Ardavon House, Derry	29/12/2021	Over
Templemoyle, Eglinton	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Awaiting terminal clean
Daleview House, Derry	29/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Melmount Manor Care Centre, Strabane	30/12/2021	Ongoing: Active
Silverdale, Castlederg	31/12/2021	Over
Millverne, Enniskillen	31/12/2021	Over
Praxis Care, Derry	31/12/2021	Over
Knockmoyle Lodge, Omagh	01/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
County, Enniskillen	02/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Millcroft, Enniskillen	02/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Seven Oaks Housing with Care	02/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
The Tilery, Enniskillen	04/01/2022	Ongoing: Awaiting terminal clean
Gortacharn, Lisnaskea	04/01/2022	Situation of interest
Cornfield Care Centre 1, Limavady	04/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Belmont Cottages, Derry	04/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Ardlough, Derry	04/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Woodmount, Strabane	05/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Railway Court, Omagh	05/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Meadow View, Enniskillen	05/01/2022	Over
Longfield Care Home, Eglinton	05/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Drumary House, Derrygonnelly	06/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Culmore Manor Care Centre, Derry	06/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Deanfield, Derry	06/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Dunvale House, Derry	07/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Alexander House, Derry	10/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Cheshire House (Leonard Cheshire Disability), Derry	10/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Rossorry Grove Supported Living, Enniskillen	10/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Hillcrest Care Facility (res), Omagh	12/01/2022	Ongoing: Active
Meadowbank Care Home, Omagh	13/01/2022	Situation of interest

Silverdale, Castlederg	18/01/2022	Situation of interest
Meadowbank, Derry	19/01/2022	Ongoing: Active

Support to these homes requires an on-site visit by a Senior IP&C Nurse. It involves assessing their current IP&C practices and giving recommendations on possible improvements. The IP&C Team are challenged to provide this due to other workload commitments, as well as the limited availability of Senior IP&C Nurses. Independent Sector visits are, therefore, being risk assessed and organised as capacity allows.

### **3. Overview**

Whilst the Trust has been managing Covid pandemic over last 22 months each surge offers particular challenges. The high level of transmissibility of Omicron variant raised particular challenges for the IPC team in managing risk of nosocomial infection, This required collaborative working across teams and directorates to minimise impact.

#### **Challenges**

- Extreme high levels of community transmission across WHSCT geography
- Atypical symptom profile in both staff and patient (particularly elderly) groups
- Asymptomatic staff testing positive
- Decreasing community restrictions
- Holiday period with expectations of annual leave
- Constraints in Testing capacity, Laboratory capacity, Contact Tracing Capacity
- Environmental limitations both space and ventilation
- Vaccination uptake

#### **Impact**

- Increasing risk of Nosocomial Infection causing harm to patients and staff
- Decreasing staff availability secondary to Covid infection/Isolation
- Decreasing bed capacity both in Acute and Community facilities consequence of outbreaks
- Escalated beds and escalated areas
- Increased number of Covid patients increasing demands in Acute and Community facilities
- Increased demand for testing and timely test reporting
- Frequent change to returning staff to work guidance
- Increased risk of transmission from visitors
- Decrease in availability of support services

#### **Mitigations**

- Reintroduction of daily silver meetings including weekends
- Focus on maintaining patient flow
- Regular reinforcing of IPC messaging across Trust
- Maximising testing capacity, laboratory capacity, contact tracing capacity
- Staff cancelling holiday leave
- Workforce initiatives through appeals to support critical infrastructures
- Focused work on implementing staff return to work guidance changes promptly
- Environmental risk assessments re ventilation with enhanced PPE where necessary
- Prioritisation of cleaning resource to high risk areas
- Review of Visiting guidance including temporary cessation
- Increasing Asymptomatic Staff testing using both Lateral Flow Testing and LAMP testing
- Collaboration with PHA to pilot new testing of staff and patients programmes
- Enhanced vaccination programme with pop up clinics to maximise staff uptake

**COVID-19 Training**

The IP&C Team launched a programme of COVID-19 Training sessions commencing in mid-September 2020. Originally the training was delivered through a combination of face-to-face and virtual sessions. The face-to-face sessions were restricted to small groups in order to comply with social distancing requirements. The training is now fully virtual.

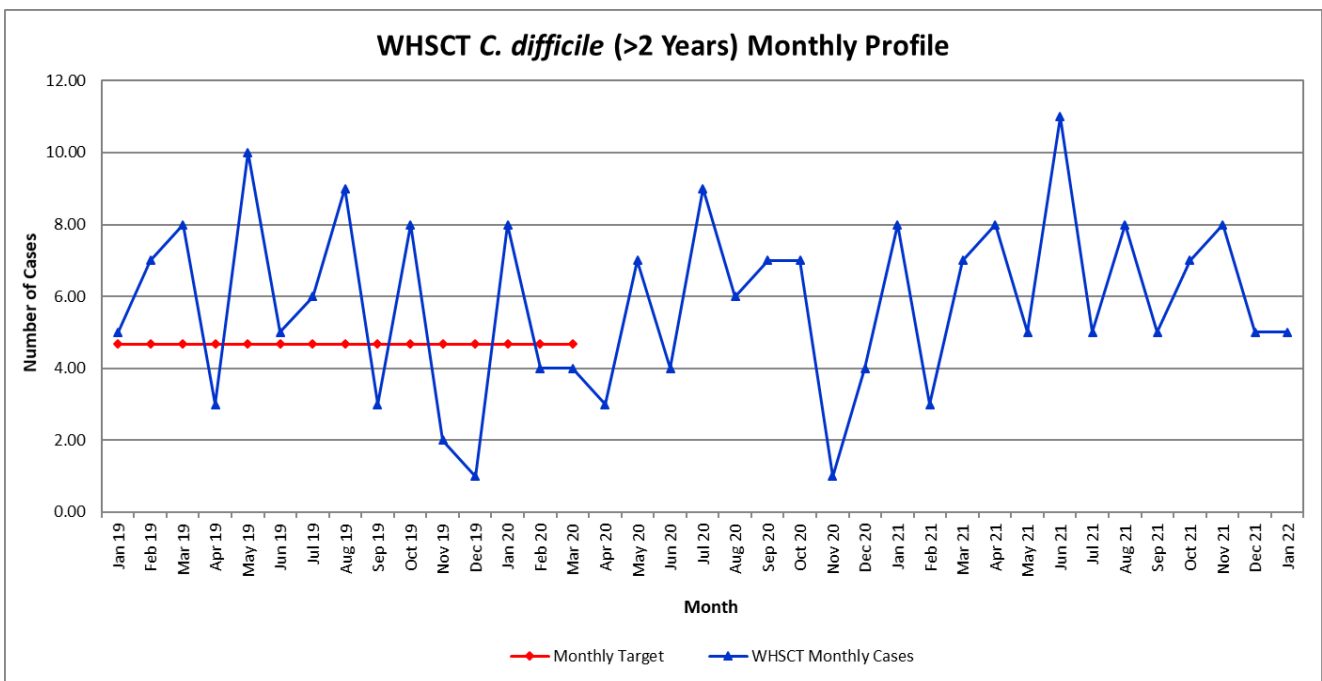
As of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 72 sessions have taken place and a total of 1973 staff have attended. That is 17.41% of the total number of staff who require training (approximately 11,334 people).

There was a temporary pause on the delivery of training between mid-November 2021 and January 2022. There were two reasons for this. First, there was reduced capacity within the IP&C Team due to the increased number of outbreaks, both in the Trust and in the Independent Sector. Second, new national IP&C guidance was expected to be introduced in the Trust in the New Year which would update staff practices and the precautions required for certain patient groups. It was decided to wait until this new guidance was in place before training further staff so as to ensure they received the most up to date information possible. It is hoped that training sessions will recommence in February 2022.

**4. C. difficile Performance**

The new 2021/22 reduction target for *C. difficile* (≥ 2 years) has not yet been issued.

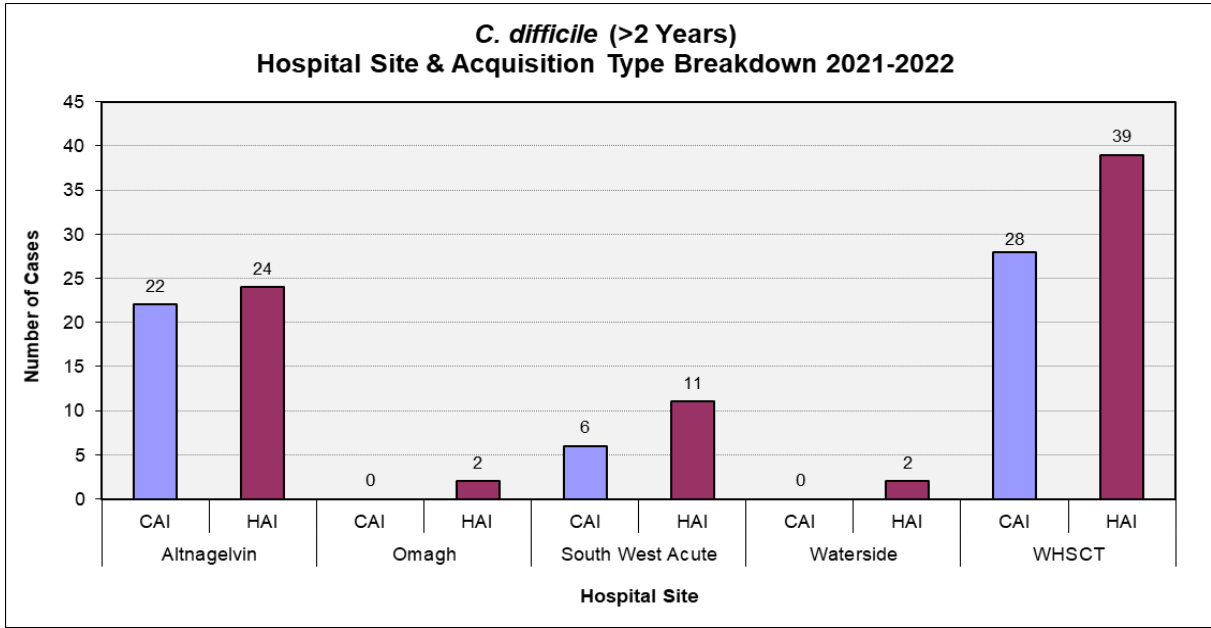
Since the beginning of April 2021 67 cases have been reported, with 28 of those being categorised as community-associated.



\* The value for Jan 22 is subject to change as the report was compiled prior to the end of the month.

A breakdown of the cases by hospital site and acquisition type is given in the chart below.

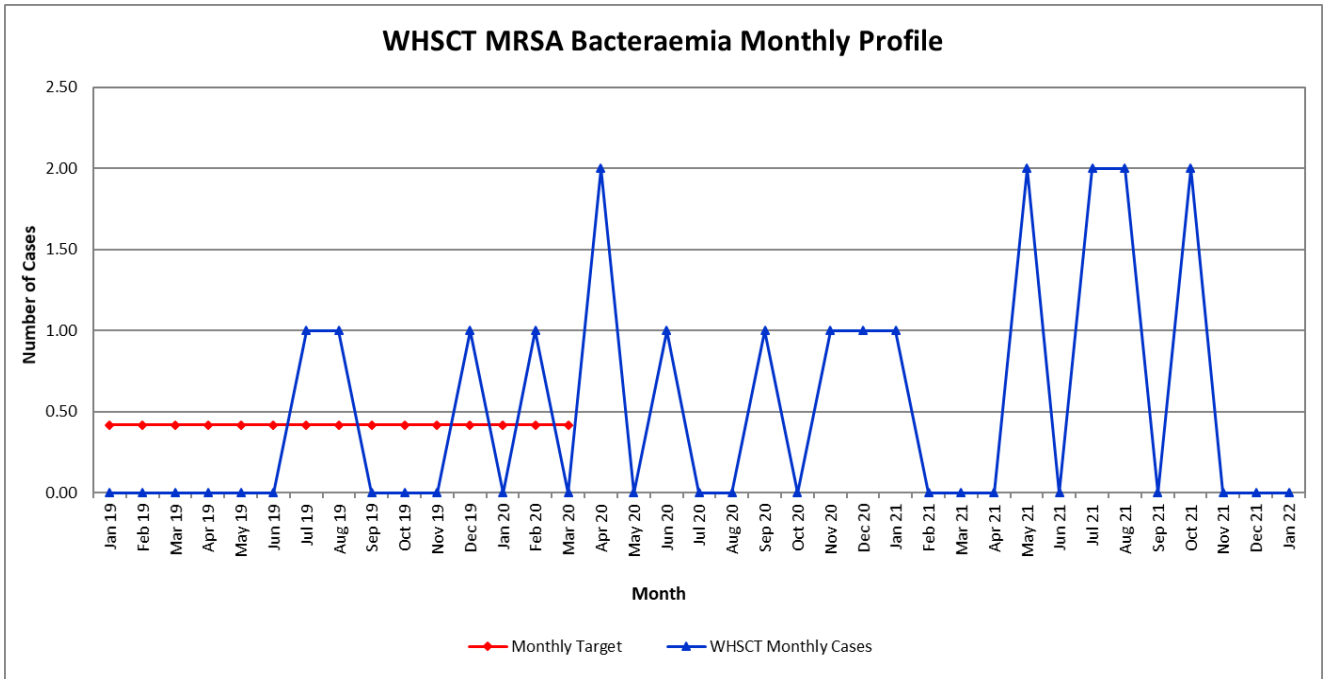
**Key:**  
CAI Community-associated infection  
HAI Hospital-associated infection



**5. MRSA Bacteraemia Performance**

The new MRSA bacteraemia reduction target for 2021/22 has not yet been issued.

Since the beginning of April 2021 eight cases have been reported, with three of those being categorised as healthcare-associated.

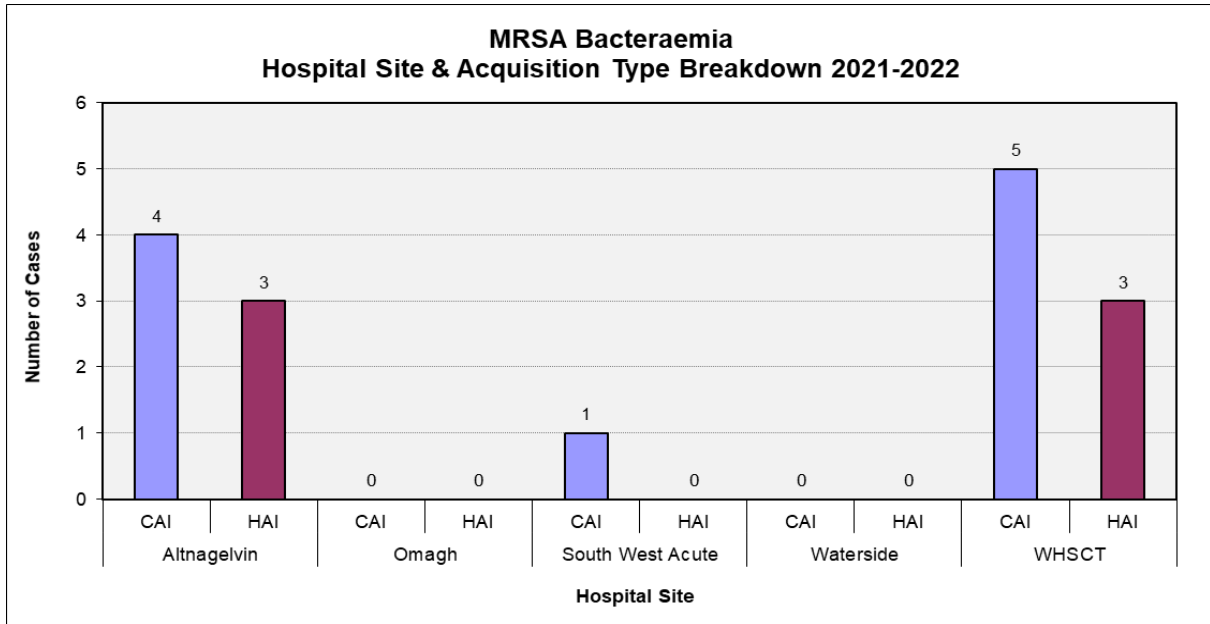


\* The value for Jan 22 is subject to change as the report was compiled prior to the end of the month.

A breakdown of the cases by hospital site and acquisition type is given in the chart below.

**Key:**  
CAI Community-associated infection  
HAI Hospital-associated infection





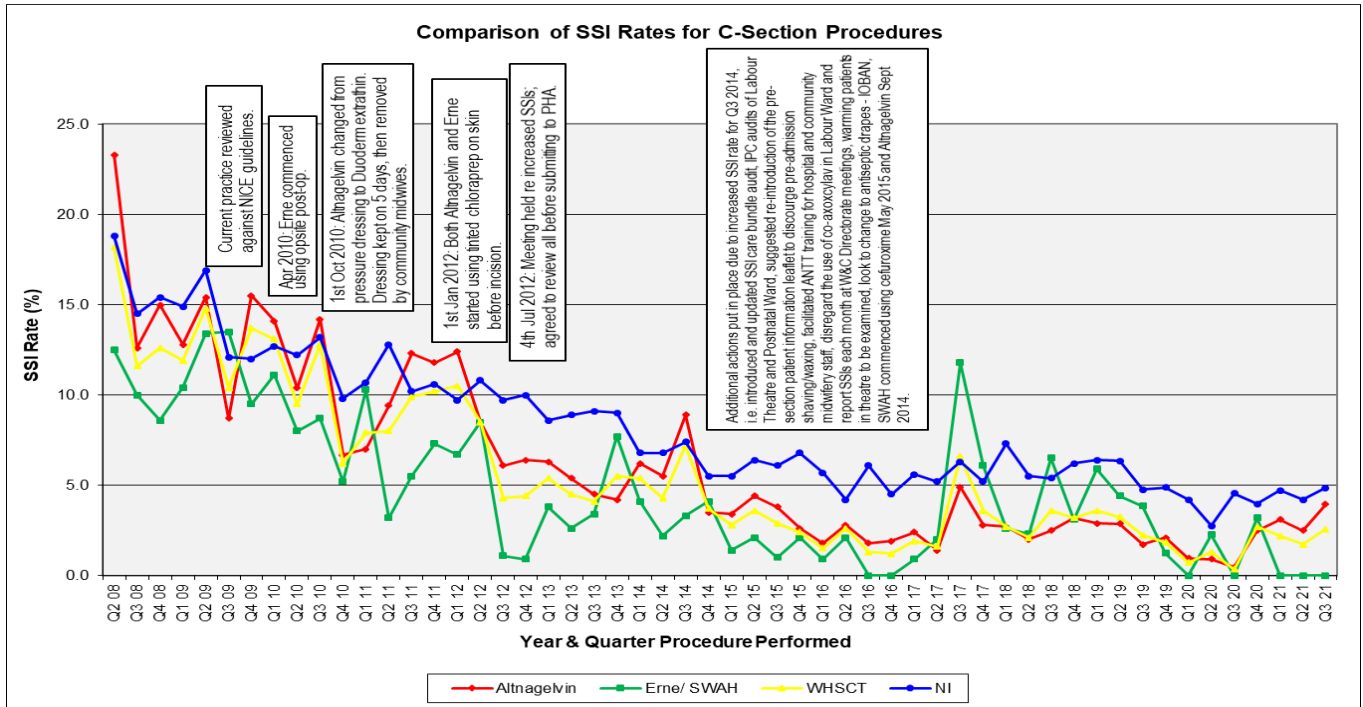
As of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, the total number of days since the last Trust hospital-associated MRSA bacteraemia is:

Altnagelvin – 105 days	(Last recorded case was in Ward 22 ASM)
SWAH – 586 days	(Last recorded case was in Ward 8)
Tyrone County Hospital/ OHPCC – 2558 days	(Last recorded case was in the Rehab Unit)

## 6. Caesarean Section Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance

During quarter three of 2021 the Trust achieved 86.4% compliance with surveillance related documentation, compared to an 82.6% average compliance rate in NI as a whole.

The surveillance information below demonstrates an ongoing reduction in infection rates over time and a lower rate for the Trust than the rest of the region; 2.56% and 4.86% respectively.



## 7. Orthopaedic Surgical Site Infection Surveillance

The SSI rate remains less than 0.7% of all surgery and, in quarter three of 2021 specifically, it is 0.00%. Evidence based care bundles are in place for orthopaedic surgery.

