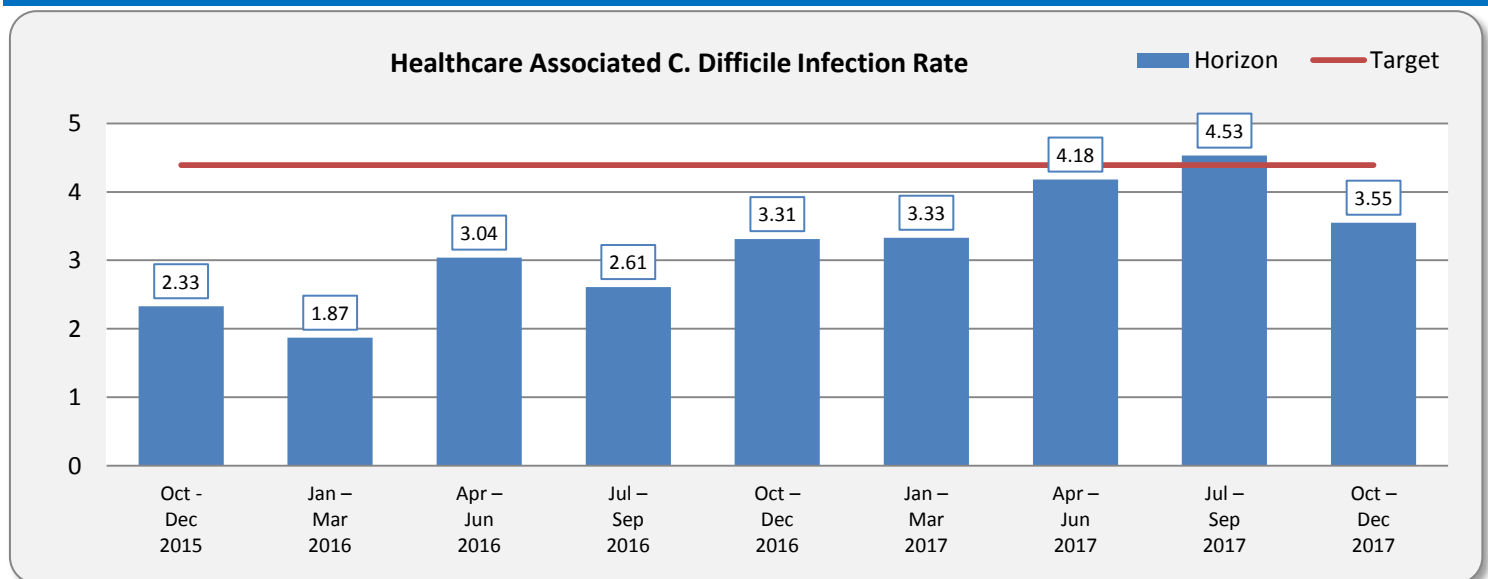
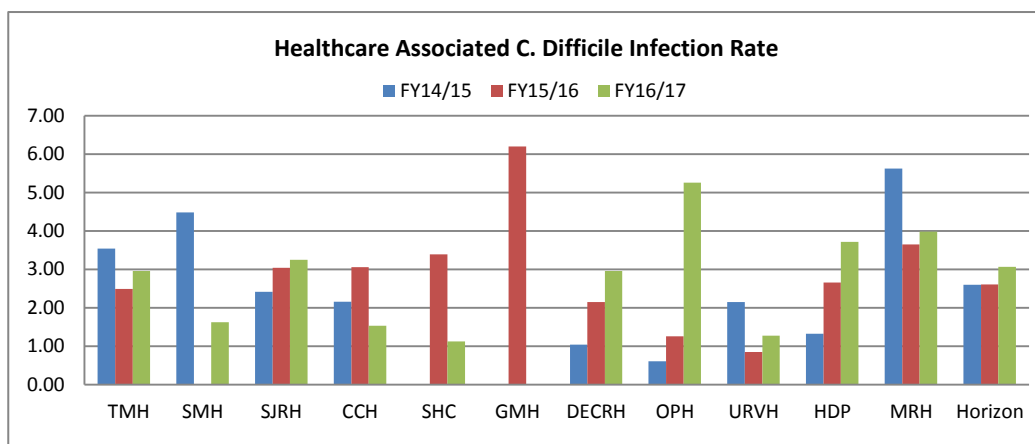


Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) is a bacterium that causes mild to severe diarrhea and intestinal conditions. It can be found in both community and hospital settings. Certain antibiotics used in high doses or over a prolonged period of time can destroy a person's normal bacteria found in the bowel, causing C. difficile bacteria to grow and cause diarrhea. However, some people can have C. difficile bacteria present in their bowel and not show symptoms. Those at higher risk include the elderly, people with severe underlying illness, and people taking certain antibiotics or cancer chemotherapy. It is easily spread by contact with unwashed hands and surfaces. People can unknowingly transmit the bacteria during routine activities and procedures between patients.

Definition: Total # of newly identified Healthcare Associated CDI cases per 10,000 patient days. Healthcare Associated is a term relating to infections that are acquired during the delivery of healthcare. This excludes nursing homes and community acquired cases.

2017/18 Target: 4.39



Analysis: The Healthcare Associated CDI overall rate at Horizon had remained better than target, however it has seen an increase above the target in FY 2017-18. FY 2017-18 Q3 data shows that four Horizon facilities are trending worse than target.

Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) continues to work with nursing units in facilities where there is an increase in Healthcare Associated CDI rat. IP&C surveillance is ongoing. Each case is reviewed and in many cases common risk factors have been identified which include age, comorbidities and antibiotic use. IP&C continues to work to ensure appropriate cleaning measures are implemented. Education on isolation precautions, hand hygiene and appropriate use of personal protective equipment is ongoing.