

***Clostridioides difficile* infection, *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia, *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia and Surgical Site Infection in Scotland**

January to March (Q1) 2021

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland. These are an important cause of severe illness, death, and higher treatment costs. The published data can be used to improve care of patients. *Clostridioides difficile infection* (CDI) can cause diarrhoeal illness, especially in vulnerable patients who have received antibiotics. *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB) and *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) are both life-threatening bloodstream infections. Surgical site infections (SSI) are bacterial infections of surgical operation sites which can have serious outcomes for patients.

Main Points

Total cases for January to March (Q1) 2021

- There were 262 CDI cases, of which 80.5% (211) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 278 cases.
- There were 961 ECB cases, of which 51.3% (493) were community infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,076 cases.
- There were 388 SAB cases, of which 63.9% (248) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 387 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for SSI are not included for this quarter due to the pausing of surveillance to support the COVID-19 response.

NHS Boards requiring further analysis

- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q1. This needs to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.

Table 1 shows NHS boards' position (above or below average) for each healthcare infection in 2021 Q1. The number of community ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q1.

Table 1: NHS boards' position (above or below average) for each healthcare infection

NHS Board	CDI Healthcare Associated	CDI Community Associated	ECB Healthcare Associated	ECB Community Associated	SAB Healthcare Associated	SAB Community Associated
Ayrshire and Arran	-	-	-	+	-	-
Borders	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries and Galloway	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fife	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forth Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Jubilee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grampian	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lothian	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shetland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tayside	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Isles	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key

+ Markedly higher than average infection rate

- Average or below average infection rate

Background

The data used for this report is part of the mandatory surveillance in Scotland. ARHAI Scotland supports NHS boards to analyse their data. Local monitoring in hospital and community settings is required to reduce these infections.

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Further Information

Find out more in the [full report](#). The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#) along with a background information and metadata document. Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

For more information on types of infections included in this report, please see the [CDI](#), [ECB](#), [SAB](#) and [SSI](#) pages.

The next release of this publication will be October 2021.