

## What kind of information will be collected?

All the data is collected anonymously. The only information needed is age, sex, presence of medical devices and test results. If an active HCAI is present further information will be collected on the type of infection.

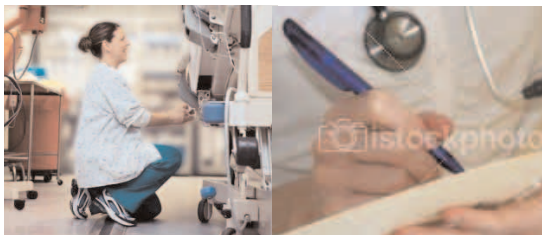
## Where can I get more information on the Prevalence Survey?

You can get more information on the prevalence survey from:

your hospital's Infection Control Team

Or

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre  
at [info@hpsc.ie](mailto:info@hpsc.ie)



The Prevalence Survey of Healthcare  
Associated Infections 2006

Hospital Infection Society and the Infection  
Control Nurses Association

# The Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections 2006

Information Leaflet for  
Healthcare Staff



## What is the HIS Prevalence Survey?

The Hospital Infection Society (HIS) is carrying out a point prevalence survey in Ireland and the UK, to find out more about infections that patients acquire in hospitals. This survey is called the HealthCare Associated (HCAI) Prevalence Survey. It gives Irish hospitals a chance to learn about hospital infections as part of an international study.

## Who is carrying out the survey in Ireland?

The hospital infection control team will be carrying out the survey in conjunction with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC). The HPSC is the national agency responsible for monitoring infectious disease in Ireland.

## What is a healthcare associated infection?

A healthcare associated infection is any infection picked-up by a patient 48 hours or more after admission to hospital. These included urinary tract infections, respiratory infections and wound infections.

## What is a point prevalence survey?

The point prevalence of a disease is the number of individuals with a disease at a fixed point in time. The fixed point in time for the survey is one day for each ward evaluated.

## What are the main aims of the survey?

- To estimate the prevalence of healthcare associated infections in Ireland and the UK

- To provide the Department of Health and Children and the Health Service Executive with baseline information on the prevalence of healthcare associated infections in acute hospitals in Ireland
- To use the results to direct national and regional strategies for the prevention of healthcare associated infections

## Who has access to this information?

Participating hospitals will have access to their own data through a secure web based system. This will allow local infection control teams to produce their own results so that they can compare their rates with the overall HCAI Prevalence Survey results.

## Who can take part?

**Wards:** All wards serving adult patients (> 16 years) except those that serve pediatric in-patients, day patients or patients with learning difficulties.

**Patients:** All adult in-patients aged 16 and over. Day patients and patients admitted for one day for treatment or diagnostic procedures are excluded from the surveys.

## What will happen on the ward?

Infection control nurses and data collectors in each hospital will collect data between March and May 2006. All data collection in one ward will be completed within one day and take place on weekdays.