

Will my care be affected in any way?

No. Your normal clinical care will not be affected in any way. All the information needed is available in your case notes.

Can I be identified by the data collected?

No. All the data is collected anonymously. The only information needed is age, sex, type of ward that patients are on (i.e. medical or surgical) and test results. Only a limited number of people – such as the hospital's infection control team and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre- will have access to the information.

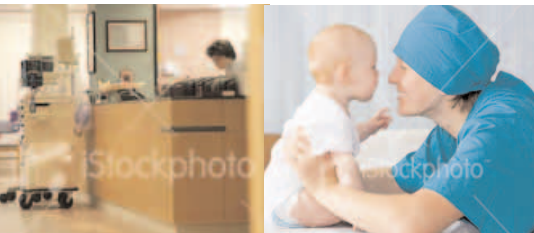
Where can I get more information?

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



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 Patients and
Members of the Public In Ireland



Féidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



What is the HIS Prevalence Survey?

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

What is the Hospital Infection Society?

It is a UK based professional body that has many Irish Members. Membership includes experts in infection such as microbiologists, infection control nurses, scientists and others interested in hospital related infections. Irish members have contributed to the design and organisation of the survey.

Who is carrying out the survey in Ireland?

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre is the national agency responsible for monitoring infectious disease in Ireland, and is co-ordinating the survey here along with each hospital's infection control team.

What is a healthcare associated infection (HCAI)?

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.

How does the survey work?

Patient case notes, nursing notes and drug charts will be checked by members of the hospital infection control team and Health Protection Surveillance Centre staff. Data will be collected from these notes to check whether a patient has a hospital associated infection and how they might have picked up the infection.

Will patients benefit from the survey?

The results of the survey will lead to the setting up of a national scheme to collect accurate information about the number of patients with hospital associated infections and the reasons why these infections were picked up. This information will allow hospitals to focus on protecting at-risk patients from hospital associated infections and allow hospitals to develop national and regional strategies to prevent infections. This should lead to a fall in the number of Irish patients with these infections.

Will I need to have extra medical tests?

No. The information will be taken from previous tests. No other tests such as x-rays or blood tests are needed.