

HALT 2016: Why should my facility take part?



What is HALT?

The HALT project is a survey in all long-term care facilities (LTCFs). It's taking place in Ireland and across Europe in May 2016.

The survey is looking at the following:

1. Healthcare-associated infection (HCAI)
2. Antibiotic use
3. Infection prevention and control resources and practices
4. Antibiotic resistance



The HALT survey was previously undertaken in Europe in 2010 when 69 Irish LTCFs took part, it was repeated in Ireland in 2011 (108 LTCFs) and most recently in 2013, when 190 Irish LTCF participated. This May will mark the fourth HALT survey to be conducted in Ireland.

What are the benefits of participation?

Taking part in HALT 2016 will:

1. **Demonstrate your facility's commitment to improving resident care and improving compliance with national HIQA standards** for prevention of HCAI and standards for residential care settings for older people and residential services for children and adults with disability.
2. **Provide you with an overview of HCAI and antibiotic use in your facility.** These results will allow you to plan improvements in resident care e.g., education of staff/development of policies.
3. **Prior participants will be able to compare their facility's results in 2016 with those of previous HALT surveys & see how their facility performs compared with other Irish LTCF caring for a similar resident population.**
4. **Increase staff awareness and knowledge** of infection prevention and control and best use of antibiotics.
5. **Provide an opportunity to link with, learn and share** quality improvement initiatives with colleagues in the Irish residential care sector.

Feedback from participants

Below is a sample of some of the positive feedback from participants after the 2013 HALT survey:

- 93% intended to participate in a future HALT survey
- 87% would recommend HALT to a colleague in an other facility
- 94% agreed the training course prepared them to undertake their local HALT survey

'It was very useful when delivering local education to have local stats, makes it more applicable and staff are more interested'

'The incidence of UTI reduced, the use of unnecessary antibiotics has improved greatly. Also, the staff appear to be generally more well-informed and interested in this area'

'We have adjusted our medication chart, stop dates for antibiotics has improved and we are putting together a urinary catheter care bundle'

How much work is involved?

There are three types of form to be completed for the HALT survey:

1. **Institutional Questionnaire:** One form completed for each facility, Data collected on this form includes the number of residents, beds, single rooms and the availability of infection control advice, training, policies and guidelines.
2. **Ward List:** One form completed for each ward in the facility and records antibiotic use, risk factors for and signs and symptoms of infection for each resident.
3. **Resident Questionnaire:** One form completed for each resident with signs and symptoms of infection and/or receiving antibiotics on the date of the survey.

Information from the three questionnaires is then entered into a software programme, supplied by the HPSC. All information entered into the software is anonymous.

How many staff are required for the survey?

This depends on the size of your facility and whether or not ward staff help by completing the ward list. Based on previous studies, average sized facilities (~50 beds) with two staff members working together were able to complete the survey in one day. Staff completing the study will need to be freed up from normal duties. However, if releasing two staff for a full day is not an option, it is permissible to undertake the study over a number of days, provided data from an individual ward/unit is collected on one day. Once the data is collected on forms, it is entered into a user-friendly HALT software tool on your computer. This software will be available in advance. Deadline for e-mail of HALT data to HPSC is May 31st.

Will staff require training?

Yes, at least one person from each participating facility must attend a one day training course in April. One trained staff member could collect data in a number of nursing homes (e.g., a group of nursing homes).

Staff who participated in HALT 2013 will still need to attend a training course, as the 2016 protocol has some new changes from 2013.

We will/hope to take part; what do I need to do next?

Complete the registration form on page 3 of the invitation letter before Friday 19th February and return to: HALT@hpsc.ie or post to: HALT Administrator, HPSC, 25-27 Middle Gardiner St, D01A4A3 or fax to: 01-8561299

Once registration closes, HPSC will contact the registered coordinator for each facility to arrange a training course date

What type of facility can participate?

Any type of facility where residents are living full time and require 24 hour nursing care including:

- Nursing homes
- Psychiatric long-term care facilities
- Intellectual disability facilities
- Physical disability facilities
- Hospice/palliative care
- Residential wards within acute hospitals (provided that these wards are eligible for inspection against the HIQA residential care standards)

Want more information?

Go to the HPSC website; www.hpsc.ie, click on 'Topics A-Z', select 'H' and select 'HALT Project'

Specific queries can be directed to: The HALT Administrator via e-mail address: HALT@hpsc.ie