

## Why is it important to collect this information?

- The number of residents cared for in long-term care settings is increasing
- The number of residents that require complex nursing and medical care is also increasing
- Long-term care residents may have risk factors for picking up infections and some of those risks may be modified or prevented
- Bacteria are developing resistance to antibiotics. This means we must ensure antibiotics are used with care
- Accurate information on infections, antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use is crucial to increase awareness and to put strategies in place to reduce preventable healthcare-associated infection and inappropriate antibiotic use.

## Where can I get further information?

Further information can be sourced from:

- Staff in your facility
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre website available at [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)
- A plain language summary of the findings of the last HALT survey in Ireland (2013) is available on page 13 of the HALT National Report, which can be accessed on the HPSC website at the following link:

[http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/  
MicrobiologyAntimicrobialResistance/  
InfectionControlandHAI/Surveillance/  
HCAinlongtermcarefacilities/  
HALTReports/2013Report/](http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/MicrobiologyAntimicrobialResistance/InfectionControlandHAI/Surveillance/HCAinlongtermcarefacilities/HALTReports/2013Report/)



# The national survey of healthcare- associated infection in long-term care facilities (HALT) May 2016

## Resident Information Leaflet

# What is the HALT Survey?

The HALT survey is a survey of long-term care facilities in European countries, including Ireland and it will take place in May 2016

The HALT survey was previously undertaken in Ireland in 2010, 2011 and 2013

## The survey is looking at four areas:

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

## Who is carrying out the survey in Ireland?

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) is the national agency responsible for monitoring infectious diseases in Ireland and is coordinating the HALT survey, along with staff from each participating facility and if available, local infection prevention and control nurses.

## What is a healthcare-associated infection?

A healthcare associated infection is any infection picked up 48 hours or later following admission to a healthcare facility (hospital or long-term care facility). These include; urinary tract infections, chest and wound infections.

## How does the survey work?

Resident case notes, nursing notes and drug prescription charts will be checked by staff who work in your facility. Information will be gathered from these notes, to check whether a resident has an infection or is on antibiotics. In addition, each nursing home will collect information on infection prevention and control practices, resources and training.

## Will residents benefit from this survey?

Information collected during this survey will allow each facility to develop strategies to reduce preventable healthcare-associated infection and improve antibiotic use. In addition, each facility will be able compare their results with those of other facilities who look after residents with similar needs.

## Will I have to have extra tests?

No. The information will be collected from previous test results.

## Will my care be affected in any way?

No. Your normal care will not be affected. All information needed is available in your notes.

## Can I be identified by the information collected?

No. The information is collected anonymously. The only information required is the age and gender of the resident, whether or not the resident has any risk factors for developing infections (e.g., urinary catheter) and the results of any tests that may have been sent to the laboratory to help diagnose infection. Only a limited number of staff in your facility will have access to the data and all data returned to HPSC is entirely anonymous.