

## Why is it important to collect this information on Irish LTCF?

- The number of residents cared for in long-term care settings is increasing
- The number of LTCF residents who require complex nursing care is also increasing
- LTCF residents may have risk factors predisposing them to HCAI, some of which may be preventable or modified to reduce risk
- Bacteria that cause HCAI are becoming more and more resistant 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, to reduce preventable HCAI and minimise inappropriate antibiotic use

## Where can I get further information?

Further information can be sourced from:

- The Director of Nursing or Manager of your LTCF
- Follow the link below to access the results of previous HALT surveys in Ireland, along with all of the documentation for HALT 2016 (training aids, information leaflets, questionnaires and protocol) on the HPSC website:

<http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/MicrobiologyAntimicrobialResistance/InfectionControlandHAI/Surveillance/HCAIinlongtermcarefacilities/>



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

## Staff Information Leaflet



# What is the HALT survey?

HALT is a point prevalence or 'snapshot' survey of long-term care facilities (LTCF) in European countries, which will take 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 (HCAI)
2. Antibiotic use
3. Infection prevention and control resources and practices
4. Antibiotic resistance

## What is a point prevalence survey ?

The point prevalence of an infection is the number of residents with an infection at a fixed point in time (i.e. a snap shot).

The 'fixed point in time' for the HALT survey is one day for each LTCF evaluated. In some larger LTCF, the data can be collected over two days. However, the data from a single ward or unit MUST be completed on the same day.

## Who is carrying out the survey in Ireland?

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

## What is a healthcare-associated infection?

A healthcare associated infection is any infection picked up by a resident 48 hours or more following admission to a healthcare facility (hospital or LTCF). These include; urinary tract infections, respiratory and wound infections.

## How does the survey work?

It is very important that all LTCF taking part in the survey are using the same definitions of infections, so that results are accurate and comparable.

The HPSC will provide training to staff, nominated by each participating LTCF during April & May 2016. HPSC will provide ongoing support during and after the HALT survey.

Resident's medical/nursing notes and medication charts will be checked by trained staff from each nursing home on the HALT survey day in May 2016. Information will be checked to record whether a resident has an infection or is on antibiotics. In addition, each LTCF will collect information on local infection prevention and control practices, resources and training.

## How are the results calculated?

Three types of questionnaire will be used to collect the information:

1. **Institutional questionnaire:** Gives information about the LTCF
2. **Ward list:** Gives information about the residents and their risk factors
3. **Resident questionnaire:** Gives information about residents who are prescribed antibiotics and/or have signs or symptoms which may represent an infection

Data from the completed questionnaires will be entered locally, into the HALT computer software package, provided to each LTCF by HPSC. This will provide immediate preliminary local results. The data is then returned to HPSC for inclusion in the national HALT report and HPSC will provide a final local HALT report to each participating LTCF.

## Will residents benefit from this survey?

Information collected during this survey will allow each LTCF to develop strategies to reduce preventable HCAI and minimise inappropriate antibiotic use.

## Can residents be identified by the information collected?

No resident-identifying information will leave the LTCF. HALT is an anonymous survey.