

Will patients benefit from the survey?

This hospital has volunteered to join a national survey to learn more about healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic use in this hospital, in Ireland and in Europe.

This hospital's results from the survey will be used by the nurses, doctors and managers who work in the hospital to help us all improve antibiotic use, reduce hospital-acquired infections and improve patient care.

It is hoped that this survey can be repeated to measure improvement in antibiotic use and healthcare—associated infections over time.

Will I need to have extra tests?

No. The information for the survey will be taken from the results of previous tests. No extra tests will be needed.

Will my care be affected in any way?

No. Your normal care will not be affected in any way. All the information needed by this hospital's staff to complete the survey is already available in your notes or from the nurse or doctor who is looking after you.

Can I be identified by the data collected?

There will be NO personally-identifying information collected. All data collected is anonymous. The information that is collected is: patient age, gender, the type of ward a patient is admitted to (i.e. medical or surgical ward or intensive care unit), whether or not a patient has a drip or urinary catheter, recent surgery, receives antibiotics and whether or not a patient meets criteria for having a healthcare-associated infection.



THE 2023 POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS & ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN IRELAND



**Patient Information
Leaflet**



What is this survey about?

The European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control (ECDC) is overseeing a large point prevalence survey (PPS) or 'snapshot' survey across Europe, designed to answer two questions:

1. What percentage of patients develop an infection as a result of being admitted to European hospitals?
2. What percentage of patients in European hospitals receive antibiotics?

This is the third survey to be carried out across all European countries. **The first survey was done in 2012 and the second was in 2017.** In Ireland, the survey is coordinated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC), the national agency responsible for the monitoring of infectious diseases and antibiotic use.

What is a healthcare-associated infection?

- This is infection picked up as a result of admission to hospital or during a stay in residential care such as a nursing home. Infections are not always preventable, because patients may be more prone to infection than healthy people in the community
- Risks for healthcare-associated infections include; cancer, diabetes, chemotherapy, surgery, recent exposure to antibiotics or insertion of drips and urinary catheters
- Healthcare-associated infections can include; urinary tract infections, chest infections or wound infections
- Some healthcare –associated infections may be preventable, by improved

Why is information being collected on the use of antibiotics?

- Antibiotics are very important to treat bacterial infections. Sometimes antibiotics are used unnecessarily, for example, infections caused by viruses
- Bacteria are always finding new ways to become resistant to antibiotics and antibiotic resistance is increasing in Ireland and around Europe
- Infections that are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be more difficult to treat (examples include: MRSA, CRE, VRE, ESBLs)
- Unnecessary antibiotic use also contributes to an increased risk of hospital-acquired infections, such as *Clostridium difficile* and to infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- Antibiotics are expensive and infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria are more even more expensive to treat

This survey will also check the number of patients receiving antibiotics, the reasons for the antibiotics and whether or not they were used according to the hospital guidelines. The information collected in this survey will help to identify areas where antibiotic use may be improved, so that antibiotics stay reliable for future patients

What happens during the survey?

- We have a team of our own staff: nurses, doctors and pharmacists who will go to every ward, meet the staff on each ward and check for patients who may have a healthcare-associated infection or patients who are receiving antibiotics
- The team will check notes, charts and laboratory results to decide if a patient meets the criteria for a healthcare-associated infection or receives antibiotics