Reduction of *Clostridium difficile* in NHS Lothian using a toolkit approach

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**AIM**

To develop & implement a Clostridium difficile toolkit in all adult acute in-patient areas in NHS Lothian which would assist NHS Lothian continue to meet the Scottish Government target of 30% reduction in *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) by 2011.

**PLAN:**

A spread plan was devised identifying the acute in-patient areas with the highest incidence of CDI. A small team was allocated to the project to assist clinical areas to begin testing the toolkit in September 2009.

**DO:**

Develop a toolkit of best practice.

A number of projects had been successful in reducing incidence of CDI:

- Risk assessment of all patients on admission (Royal Victoria Hospital)
- Routine cleaning with combined chlorine releasing agents (Western General Hospital)
- Restrictive antimicrobial prescribing and aide memoire for management of symptomatic patients (St Johns Hospital).

The workgroup combined these already successful elements into the toolkit which would also:

- Be adaptable for different clinical specialties
- Provide easy access to supporting resources such as door posters (shown below)
- Provide robust documentation of compliance with guidance and government directive

The toolkit was tested using SPSP methodology (Model for Improvement) and by using local champions from both medical and nursing teams to aid local implementation.

**STUDY:**

Process & Outcome measures were:

- Compliance with patient risk assessment
- Compliance with Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy
- Incidence of CDI

Results are collated and fed back locally using SPSP electronic workbooks.

**ACT:**

Work continues to ensure reliable implementation of the toolkit, and improve the quality of measurement.

The process measures are being reviewed constantly.

The next key stage is to examine how compliance with antimicrobial prescribing is being measured and reported. At present, this area of measurement has been the most challenging. We are looking at how this aligns with the work of the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group.

**References:**
