

# ***Clostridioides difficile* infection, *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia, *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia and Surgical Site Infection in Scotland**

**January to March (Q1) 2022**

**An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

**Publication date:** 5 July 2022

## **About this release**

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland. These are an important cause of severe illness, death, and higher treatment costs. The published data can be used to improve care of patients. *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) can cause diarrhoeal illness, especially in vulnerable patients who have received antibiotics. *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB) and *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) are both life-threatening bloodstream infections. Surgical site infections (SSI) are bacterial infections of surgical operation sites which can have serious outcomes for patients.

## Main Points

### Total cases for January to March (Q1) 2022

- There were 230 CDI cases, of which 81.3% (187) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 264 cases.
- There were 980 ECB cases, of which 46.1% (452) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,058 cases.
- There were 371 SAB cases, of which 65.0% (241) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 395 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for SSI are not included for this quarter due to the pausing of surveillance to support the COVID-19 response.

### NHS Boards requiring further analysis

These need to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.

- The number of healthcare CDI cases in NHS Highland was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q1.
- The number of healthcare ECB cases in NHS Forth Valley and NHS Tayside was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q1.
- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Lanarkshire was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q1.

The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2022 Q1.

**Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 January to 31 March 2022.**

NHS Board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire and Arran	16.0	42.6	16.9	2.2	54.0	16.5
Borders	3.2	18.9	12.6	0.0	52.8	17.6
Dumfries and Galloway	7.1	33.0	23.6	2.7	32.8	21.9
Fife	7.0	31.6	15.2	2.2	50.9	13.0
Forth Valley	12.3	+ 51.8	13.6	0.0	35.8	11.9
Golden Jubilee	0.0	0.0	8.3	-	-	-
Grampian	6.3	32.5	18.2	4.8	23.5	11.1
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	11.8	26.3	17.4	2.4	35.9	5.8
Highland	+ 27.0	19.9	25.6	5.1	35.4	3.8
Lanarkshire	15.3	28.5	14.6	4.3	+ 50.9	8.6
Lothian	15.0	25.4	10.4	3.1	36.9	8.4
Orkney	0.0	29.2	58.4	18.1	18.1	36.2
Shetland	87.5	43.8	43.8	0.0	17.7	0.0
Tayside	10.2	+ 42.7	17.9	1.9	39.9	8.8
Western Isles	32.1	16.0	16.0	45.9	30.6	15.3
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>

**Key**

+ Markedly higher than average infection rate, after accounting for NHS board size/activity

## Background

The data used for this report is part of the mandatory surveillance in Scotland. ARHAI Scotland supports NHS boards to analyse their data. Local monitoring in hospital and community settings is required to reduce these infections.

## Contact

**Shona Cairns**, Consultant Healthcare Scientist, ARHAI Scotland

**Laura Imrie**, Clinical Lead, ARHAI Scotland

0141 300 1922

[NSS.ARHAIdatateam@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.ARHAIdatateam@nhs.scot)

## Further Information

Find out more in the [full report](#). The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#) along with a background information and metadata document. Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

For more information on types of infections included in this report, please see the [CDI](#), [ECB](#), [SAB](#) and [SSI](#) pages.

The next release of this publication will be October 2022.



### **NHS National Services Scotland and Official Statistics**

NHS NSS works at the very heart of the health service across Scotland, delivering services critical to frontline patient care and supporting the efficient and effective operation of NHSScotland. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Further information about our statistics.](#)

---