

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

January to March (Q1) 2026

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An Official Statistics
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Scotland

About this release

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland. These infections may result in 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) 2026

- There were 287 **CDI** cases, of which 74.6% (214) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 291 cases.
- There were 1,071 **ECB** cases, of which 56.9% (609) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,072 cases.
- There were 428 **SAB** cases, of which 68.0% (291) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 414 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for **SSI** are not included for this quarter. Surveillance of SSI was paused in 2020 to support the COVID-19 response and has not yet resumed.

NHS boards requiring further analysis

- The following need to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated CDI** cases in **NHS Lanarkshire** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q1.
 - ▶ The number of **community associated CDI** cases in **NHS Forth Valley** in 2026 Q1 were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated ECB** cases in **NHS Tayside** and **NHS Dumfries & Galloway** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q1.
 - ▶ The number of **community associated SAB** cases in **NHS Tayside** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q1.
- Table 1 shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2026 Q1.

Table 1: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 January to 31 March 2026.

NHS Board	Healthcare			Community		
	CDI	ECB	SAB	CDI	ECB	SAB
Ayrshire & Arran	7.8	46.6	26.8	9.9	38.6	9.9
Borders	14.5	29.0	21.8	6.9	45.1	20.8
Dumfries & Galloway	13.0	+ 65.1	19.5	5.6	58.4	11.1
Fife	14.6	40.4	14.6	1.1	31.4	10.8
Forth Valley	9.3	37.2	19.9	↑ 9.3	47.7	7.9
Golden Jubilee	6.8	6.8	13.6	-	-	-
Grampian	7.9	31.0	20.9	6.9	29.5	11.6
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	14.3	37.7	18.6	3.0	25.7	3.3
Highland	19.3	20.6	13.3	5.0	30.0	12.5
Lanarkshire	+ 25.6	40.7	13.1	6.0	35.9	9.0
Lothian	16.9	37.7	17.7	5.2	30.5	11.3
Orkney	0.0	0.0	26.5	0.0	55.3	18.4
Shetland	0.0	150.7	0.0	17.5	52.5	17.5
Tayside	5.9	+ 58.1	26.1	4.8	46.4	+ 20.3
Western Isles	0.0	86.4	14.4	15.6	0.0	15.6
Scotland	13.9	39.5	18.9	5.3	33.8	10.0

Key

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

↑ Markedly higher than rates observed within the NHS board over the past three years.

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.

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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.

For more information on types of infections included in this report please see the **CDI**, **ECB**, **SAB**, and **SSI** pages.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

The next release of this publication will be October 2026.

This document has been prepared by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team of NHS Scotland Assure, part of Public Services Delivery Scotland.

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