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Nationwide salmonella cluster under investigation

The HPSC, in conjunction with the HSE Departments of Public Health, the National Salmonella Reference Laboratory, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Environmental Health Service, are currently investigating a cluster of human cases of Naladixic acid resistant *Salmonella* Enteritidis phage type 14b. Between the beginning of November and December 18th 2009, ten cases of this type have been notified, four of whom were admitted to hospital. One person has died. During the last four years, between two and six cases of this variant have been reported in Ireland per annum.

The cases are geographically and temporally dispersed, with five of the eight HSE-areas involved, and onset dates range from 24th October to 5th December (Figure). Seven males and three female were affected, ranging in age from 4 to 82 years.

No source or transmission route has yet been established for this cluster. Investigations are ongoing to try to ascertain any common exposures between cases.

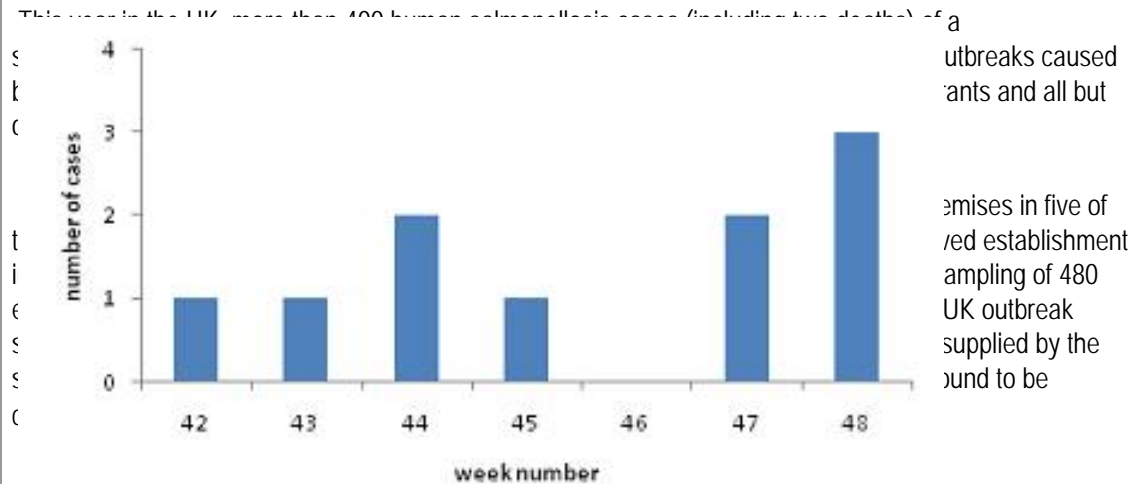


Figure: Number of human cases of Naladixic acid resistant *Salmonella* Enteritidis PT 14b by (proxy) week of onset

(Note: for one case, specimen date has been used as proxy of onset. Week 42 commenced on October 18th 2009)

Patricia Garvey and Paul McKeown, HPSC - on behalf of the National Outbreak Control Team (Martin Cormican, Wayne Anderson, Catherine Cosgrove, Mary Wardbarrett, Dave Molloy, Peter Finnegan, Maire O'Connor, Patricia Prendiville, Patrick O'Sullivan, Heidi Pelly, Coliin O'hAiseadha, Patricia Garvey and Paul McKeown)

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