

### **Third Survey of Infections in Acute Hospitals**

Ireland has emerged with the lowest rate of healthcare associated infections in the latest independent comprehensive survey of hospital infections (in Ireland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales), the HSE has announced today.

Over 7,500 patients were surveyed in 44 acute Irish hospitals with the overall figure of MRSA infection emerging as under **0.5%** - significantly lower than their UK level of **1.5%**.

The overall rate of Health Care Associated Infection (HCAI) which includes MRSA related infections) was also significantly lower in Irish hospitals. While the UK hospitals recorded an overall figure of **7.6%**, Irish hospitals recorded an overall figure of **4.9%**.

The results are from the Third Prevalence Survey of Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Hospitals, carried out by the UK and Ireland based Hospital Infection Society between February and May 2006. During that four month period, specialist Infection Control Staff carried out the survey, standardised methods of training were used and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of infection were used.

Ireland's overall HCAI figure of 4.9% compares favourably with recent figures for other countries:

- Australia **6%**
- France **6-10%**
- Norway **7%**
- Netherlands **7%**
- Spain **8%**
- USA **5-10%**
- Denmark **8%**

*Source: Winning ways – Working together to reduce healthcare associated infection in England (Department of Health, 2003)*

### **The HIS survey shows that in Ireland**

- Of the **7,518** patients surveyed, **0.5% (37)** had MRSA related HCAIs
- Of the **28 General Hospitals** surveyed, **68%** of the hospitals had **no patients** with MRSA related infections
- Of the ten **Regional/Tertiary Hospitals** surveyed, **35%** of the hospitals had **no patients** with MRSA related infections
- Of the six **Specialist Hospitals** surveyed **100%**, had **no patients** with MRSA related infections

Country	Number of hospitals	Number of patients	Infection prevalence rate
UK and Ireland (exc. Scotland)	273	75,763	7.6%
England	190	58,795	8.2%
Wales	23	5,825	6.3%
Northern Ireland	15	3,625	5.5%
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7,518</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

(Source - Hospital Infection Society)

The tables below show individual Irish hospital results from the Hospital Infection Society (UK) Prevalence Survey.

General hospitals	Number of patients surveyed	Number of patients with HCAI	% with HCAI (HCAI rate)	Number of patients with MRSA-related HCAI
Blackrock Clinic	46	3	6.5%	0
Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee	71	2	2.8%	0
Bon Secours Hospital, Dublin	95	3	3.2%	0
Cavan General Hospital	137	5	3.6%	0
The Galway Clinic, Galway	80	0	0.0%	0
Mater Private Hospital, Dublin	141	4	2.8%	0
Monaghan General Hospital	66	4	6.1%	0
Mount Carmel Hospital, Dublin	89	2	2.2%	0
Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar	138	4	2.9%	0
Naas General Hospital	167	4	2.4%	0
Our Lady's Hospital Navan	117	4	3.4%	0
Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise	101	2	2.0%	0
Midwestern Regional Hospital, Nenagh	67	3	4.5%	0
Midwestern Regional, Ennis	89	5	5.6%	0
St John's Hospital, Limerick	76	0	0.0%	0
St. Lukes General Hospital, Kilkenny	163	3	1.8%	0
St. Michaels Hospital, Dun Laoghaire	81	1	1.2%	0
Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore	166	2	1.2%	0
Wexford General Hospital	166	11	6.6%	0
Bon Secours Hospital, Cork	205	8	3.9%	1
Letterkenny General Hospital	211	9	4.3%	1
Louth County Hospital, Dundalk	69	1	1.4%	1
Mayo General Hospital	200	7	3.5%	1
Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe	130	5	3.8%	1
St Vincent's Private Hospital, Dublin	138	7	5.1%	1
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda	208	12	5.8%	2
Mercy University Hospital, Cork	165	17	10.3%	3
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork	135	18	13.3%	6

<b>Regional / Tertiary Hospitals</b>	<b>Number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Number of patients with HCAI</b>	<b>% with HCAI (HCAI rate)</b>	<b>Number of patients with MRSA-related HCAI</b>
Connolly Hospital	189	9	4.8%	0
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin	422	30	7.1%	0
Waterford Regional Hospital	267	8	3.0%	0
St Vincents University Hospital, Dublin	334	27	8.1%	1
The Adelaide and Meath Hospitals, Dublin, incorporating the National Children's Hospital.	365	30	8.2%	1
Sligo General Hospital	248	5	2.0%	1
University College Hospital and Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway.	527	21	4.0%	2
Beaumont Hospital, Dublin	529	38	7.2%	3
St James Hospital, Dublin	493	33	6.7%	5
Midwestern Regional Hospital Dooradoyle, Limerick	297	15	5.1%	7

<b>Specialist Hospitals</b>	<b>Number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Number of patients with HCAI</b>	<b>% with HCAI (HCAI rate)</b>	<b>Number of patients with MRSA-related HCAI</b>
Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dublin	53	1	1.9%	0
National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin.	88	0	0.0%	0
Regional Maternity Hospital, Limerick	52	0	0.0%	0
Midwestern Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Croom	29	0	0.0%	0
Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital, Dublin	40	0	0.0%	0
St Lukes Hospital, Dublin	91	6	6.6%	0

Although the overall HCAI rate in Ireland was **4.9%**, this did vary depending on the type of hospital surveyed: from 6% in regional/tertiary hospitals, to 4.2% in general hospitals and 2% in specialist hospitals. This variation can in part be explained by the type of activity or the profile of the patients treated by each type of hospital.