



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

*inspiring strength, dignity and compassion*

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDAD) - Public report live on [nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca)**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, September 26, 2008** – The first province-wide publication of *C. difficile* rates for all Ontario hospitals occurred earlier today on hospital websites across the province. NHH welcomes the increased transparency around the important issue of infection prevention and control. *C. difficile* information was introduced onto NHH's website, [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca), earlier this afternoon.

*C. difficile* is the first of eight patient safety indicators to receive monthly, web-based publication across the province. NHH's CDAD rates for the month of August, 2008 are:

**# of new nosocomial CDAD cases at NHH = 6**

**NHH CDAD rate (based on 2,922 patient days, excluding those < one year old) = 2.1**

To view NHH's information on our website, and to find links to related information on the subject, including a September 24 NHH Backgrounder, *Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDAD) – Public reporting enhancement set to go live on [nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca) September 26*, please go to: <http://www.nhh.ca/scorecard.asp>

To view August 2008 *C. difficile* rates for hospitals across the province, go to: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/patient\\_safety/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/patient_safety/) (Please note: the provincial patient safety website contained incurred information for NHH when originally published.)

While hospitals' *C. difficile* rates will obviously fluctuate from month-to-month, and trends will not be available until more province-wide data is published, a consistent rate of "0" is the goal. Good hand-washing by everyone (staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors) is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like *C. difficile*.

*C. Difficile* and other antibiotic-resistant infections are an unwelcome reality in modern health care settings across the globe. Prevention and control of these infections is a priority. Educational initiatives such as the launch of a new comprehensive program for support services attendants, and active participation in the province-wide *Just Clean Your Hands* program, are in place at NHH. The latest Provincial Infectious Disease

Advisory Committee best practices on the management of C. difficile are also in place and regularly monitored.

Regular public reporting of infection rates, using a methodology that is consistent from hospital-to-hospital, is important because it will allow us to work with a standardized approach across Ontario, establish a baseline and track rates over time. If we see that our rates are showing a consistent increase over time, we can look internally at our hospital's processes, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategies to reduce the incidence of C. difficile in our organization. Through monitoring and the other actions noted above, we will work toward a C. difficile rate of "0".

In future months, additional indicators will be added to the website, as set out below. The appropriate methodology for hospitals to calculate these indicators in a consistent format is now being developed.

| New reporting via <a href="http://nhh.ca">nhh.ca</a> | Indicator   |
|--|---|
| September 2008                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clostridium difficile-associated disease (C. difficile)</li><li>• Average wait time for CT, MR and cataract surgery**</li></ul>                             |
| Dec 31, 2008   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Methicillin-resistant staph aureus (MRSA)</li><li>• Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE)</li><li>• Hospital Standardized Mortality Rate (HSMR)*</li></ul> |
| April 30, 2009                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ventilator Associated Pneumonia</li><li>• Surgical Site Infections</li><li>• Hand Hygiene Compliance</li></ul>  |

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca).

**About Northumberland Hills Hospital** – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed acute care hospital delivers a broad range of services, including emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care and obstetrical care. A variety of ambulatory care clinics are also offered at NHH. In addition to these, NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs close to 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca).