

## CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE ASSOCIATED DISEASE (CDI)

**March 2012**

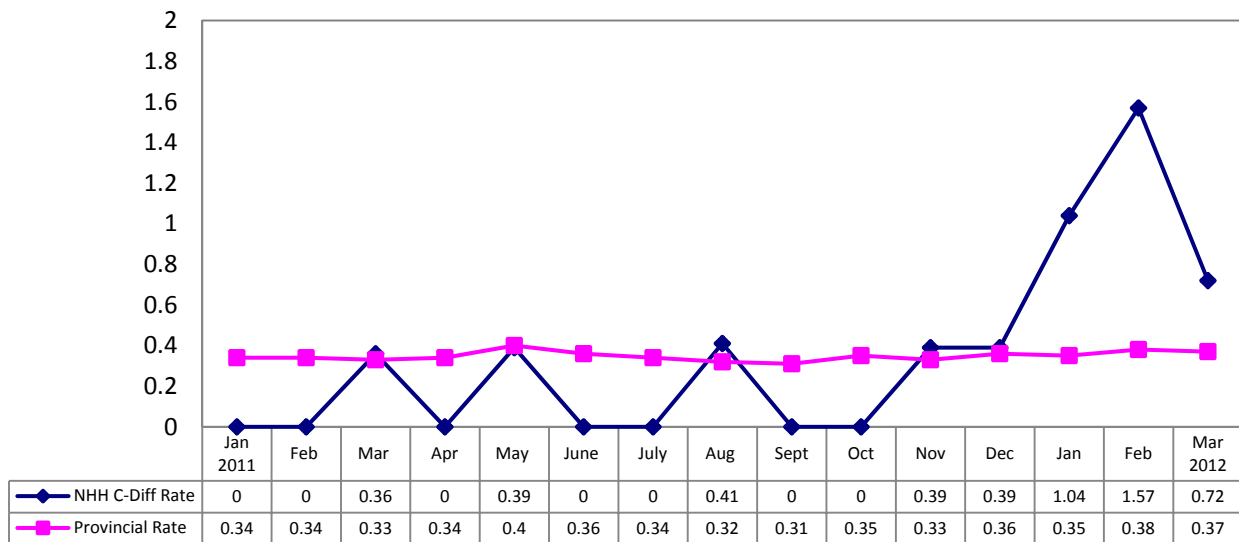
Posted May 2, 2012 (Reported monthly at the end of the following month)

### What is Clostridium Difficile (C. difficile or C. diff)?

C. diff is one of the many types of bacteria that can be found in feces (bowel movement). For most people, C. difficile does not pose a health risk. When C. difficile bacteria grows in the bowel, it produces toxins. These toxins can damage the bowel and cause diarrhea, causing a disease known as Clostridium difficile-associated Disease (CDI). The effects of CDI are usually mild but sometimes can be more severe. Symptoms can range from mild or severe diarrhea to high fever, abdominal cramping, abdominal pain and dehydration. In severe cases, surgery may be needed, and in extreme cases CDI may cause death.

For more information on Clostridium Difficile, click [here](#).

### NHH Rate of CDI Infection



	Jan 2011	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2012
# New Cases, NHH	0	0	<5	0	<5	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

The CDI rate is calculated in Ontario by dividing the number of new cases observed in the hospital by the average number of patient-days per reporting period for the facility (e.g. 100 patients staying an average of 10 days = 1,000 patient-days). This rate calculation allows the

level of hospital activity to be taken into account because this will fluctuate over time and is different across hospitals. Rates are expressed as cases per 1,000 patient-days and exclude patients less than 1 year of age.

Hospitals reporting less than 5 cases are not permitted to give the specific number but, rather, report “less than 5 cases” to avoid inadvertently identifying specific patients. Hospitals with zero cases also report their status.