



# NEWS RELEASE

from Halton Healthcare Services

---

## For Immediate Release

March 5, 2014

### **Halton Healthcare Services tracks a decrease in *C. difficile* infection rates at OTMH**

Continued monitoring and surveillance of patients at OTMH is showing a return to expected rates of *C. difficile* infections acquired by patients at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH).

At the end of January HHS advised its communities of a sudden increase in *C. difficile* infections acquired by patients at OTMH and initiated a number of proactive and aggressive measures to reduce the occurrence of the infection.

HHS reported 18 cases of hospital acquired *C. difficile* in January and 13 new cases in February.

“We are definitely seeing a reduced rate of new *C. difficile* infections at OTMH, said Dr. Neil Rau, Infectious Diseases Specialist, Medical Microbiologist and Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control Service at HHS. “We are maintaining heightened vigilance and many of the interventions that we implemented in response to the sudden increase.”

“We have always had strict infection control protocols that follow the most current best practice guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC),” continues Dr. Rau. “In response to the increase in cases, a number of additional interventions were implemented at OTMH and we are now seeing the results of these efforts.”

Healthy people are not usually vulnerable to *C. difficile*. Seniors – and people who have other illnesses or conditions being treated with antibiotics and certain other stomach medications – are at greater risk of infection.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact  
Trish Carlton  
Director, Public Relations  
Halton Healthcare Services  
905-338-4668