Clostridium difficile - Embedding best practice so that no person is harmed by a preventable infection

The project has reduced the number of Clostridium difficile cases that have associated lapses in care whilst also recognising good practice. Over the last three years and through strengthening of the process, an increase in the number of non-sanctioned cases, i.e. no breaches in key policy identified has risen from 17% in the pilot year to 50% in 2015/16. As we celebrate this success, a continued whole economy approach will be key in future developments.

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Clostridium difficile can be limited through combinations of good practice and adherence to key policies. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is used to examine the patient pathway with the intent of identifying lapses in care in the prevention, treatment and management of the disease. National guidance has focused on taking this a step further using a Post Infection Review (PIR) process. As nurses within the CCG we have supported our providers to maximise the benefits of PIR and prevent avoidable infection.

Papworth Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
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Cambridge University Hospitals
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