**Theme Analysis**

**Clostridium difficile**

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### Introduction

During the financial year 2015-2016 there were 34 Trust-apportioned cases of *Clostridium difficile* at Surrey & Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust.

An RCA investigation was carried out for each case, in order that lessons could be learned to prevent further cases.

### Themes and lessons learned

- Lack of diarrhoeal risk assessment and multi-disciplinary team review and documentation
- Missed opportunity/delay to sample sending
- Delay to patient isolation
- Testing delay
- Delay to commencement of treatment
- Prescription errors

### Actions arising from Theme Analysis

- ‘Virginia Mason’ Quality Improvement Programme - ‘SASH Plus’
- Algorithm for the clinical assessment of diarrhoea
- Increased presence of Infection Prevention & Control Nurses on the ward to facilitate review of diarrhoea and cases of *Clostridium difficile*
- ‘Stop Assess Send’ campaign, to increase awareness of the importance of prompt stool and isolation
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention & Control Programme (includes hand hygiene)
- DH ‘Period of Increase Incidence’ measures instituted where 2 or more cases are epidemiologically linked
- Maintenance of isolation of patients with toxigenic strains (PCR positive and toxin positive cases) for duration of inpatient stay (regardless of symptoms).