

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



Reported Infections Amongst Patients Receiving Dialysis Between May 2013 and April 2014

Lay summary

For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit www.renalreg.org/reports/2015-eighteenth-annual-report.

Blood stream infections with the 'super bugs' Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), Methicillin Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA), Escherichia coli (E. coli) can be life threatening in dialysis patients. It may be possible to minimise these risks with, for example, careful hand washing. Another infection of concern is Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea (C Diff), an unintended consequence of antibiotic treatment for infection. This report covers reporting for MRSA, MSSA, E. coli bloodstream infections and C Diff infections in patients who were receiving dialysis in England between May 2013 and April 2014.

The recorded infections in dialysis patients were as follows:

- MRSA: 35 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 673 patients.
- MSSA: 526 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 45 patients.
- E. coli: 352 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 67 patients.
- C Diff: 247 infections reported. Equating to 1 for every 95 patients.

Figure 1 gives an overview of the infections that occurred in dialysis patients in 2013/2014. Over the last five years the number of recorded MRSA infections has fallen and has remained stable over the last two years. The fall in MRSA infections observed over recent years is reassuring. It is likely to be due to a number of factors including:

- more frequent testing to identify those carrying the infection
- greater use of antibiotics and washes to eradicate the infection if someone is carrying it
- increased attention to dialysis access (keeping the use of haemodialysis necklines to a minimum and ensuring high levels of cleanliness).

The same strategies would be expected to work for MSSA. A more cautious use of powerful antibiotics should help to prevent C Diff-associated diarrhoea.

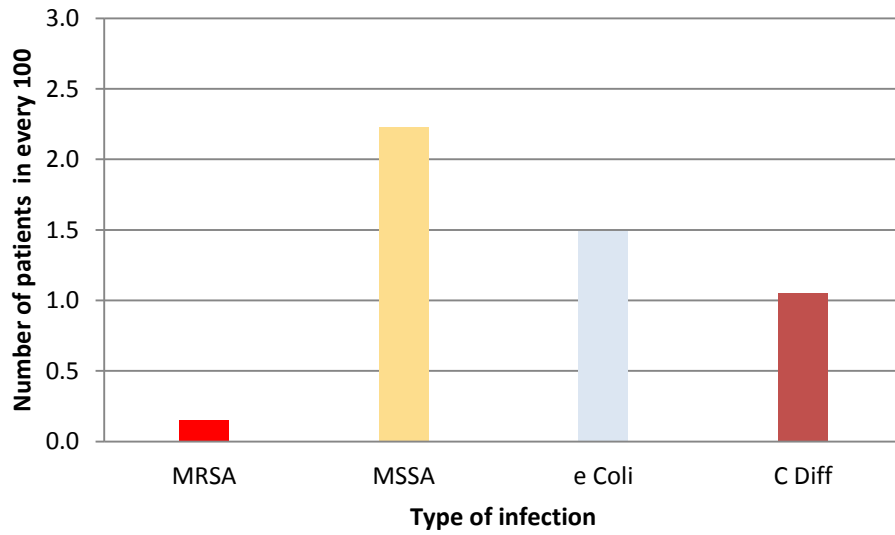


Figure 1 Number of dialysis patients in every 100 that experienced each type of infection in 2013/2014