Delaware Healthcare-Associated Infections Third Quarter 2024 Report



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Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Division of Public Health

For more information, contact:
Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Division of Public Health
Jesse Cooper Building
417 Federal Street
Dover, DE 19901
302-744-4825

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Acronyms

ACH Acute Care Hospital

CAUTI Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CI Confidence Interval (LCL = Lower Confidence Limit, UCL = Upper Confidence Limit)

CLABSI Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection

CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

CDI Clostridioides difficile (C. diff) infection

DHSS Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

HAI Health care-Associated Infection

HAIAC Health care-Associated Infections Advisory Committee

ICU Intensive Care Unit

IP Infection Preventionist

LTACH Long-Term Acute Care Hospital

MRSA Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection

MRSA-CA Community-acquired MRSA infection

MRSA-HA Health care-associated MRSA infection

NHSN National Healthcare Safety Network

SIR Standardized Infection Ratio

SSI Surgical Site Infection

UTI Urinary Tract Infection

Executive Summary

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are infections that patients may develop while receiving treatment for other conditions within a healthcare setting. These HAIs can worsen preexisting illnesses and prolong hospital stays. In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) survey that sampled many U.S. Acute Care Hospitals found that on any given day, about one in 31 hospitalized patients has at least one HAI.¹ These infections cause tens of thousands of deaths and cost the United States healthcare system billions of dollars annually.¹ More than half of all HAIs occurred outside the intensive care unit.

In 2007, the Delaware General Assembly passed House Bill 47, establishing the Health-care-Associated Infections Disclosure Act (16 *Del. Code* §1001A).² The law requires hospitals to report HAIs to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) by using the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).³ CDC's NHSN is the nation's most widely used tracking system for HAIs. NHSN provides healthcare facilities and states with data collection and reporting capabilities by using standardized definitions, allowing them to identify infection prevention problem areas, show benchmark progress, and comply with public reporting mandates to drive progress towards eliminating HAIs.

Delaware Code requires DHSS to submit quarterly reports to the legislature. Quarterly reports cover HAIs reported within a three-month timeframe to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH). This quarterly report pulls data from July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024. As required by law, all quarterly reports will be made available to anyone upon request. Quarterly reports can be found here: <u>Delaware Hospital Infection Reports - Delaware Health and Social Services - State of Delaware</u>.

The Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Committee (HAIAC) was appointed by the DHSS Secretary in 2007 (Appendix A). The HAIAC assisted DHSS in the development of regulations, reviewed NHSN requirements, and selected reporting requirements for Delaware.⁴

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¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care-Associated Infections <u>Health Care-Associated Infections | HHS.gov</u>

² Title 16, § 1001A of the Delaware Code, About NHSN https://delcode.delaware.gov/title16/c010a/index.html

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, About NHSN http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about.html

⁴ Delaware Register of Regulations <u>Delaware Register of Regulations</u>, <u>Volume 12</u>, <u>Issue 11</u>, <u>May 2009</u>

Reporting HAIs in Delaware

All eight ACHs in Delaware report HAIs through the NHSN. Beginning in mid-2012, the HAIAC determined that Delaware would follow the reporting requirements of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective September 1, 2013.⁵

This report includes data on the following types of HAIs:

- (1) **Device-Related Infections** that occur in adult, pediatric, and neonatal intensive care units (ICUs) and adult and pediatric medical/surgery units at ACHs in Delaware:
 - (a) catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs)
 - (b) central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs).
- (2) **Surgical Site Infections** (SSIs) that occur among adults in ACHs following:
 - (a) colon surgery or
 - (b) abdominal hysterectomy.
- (3) Hospital-Onset Laboratory-Identified Events that occur in ACHs:
 - (a) Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia
 - (b) Clostridioides difficile (C. diff).

Methods

Infection Preventionists (IPs) at ACHs in Delaware are required to report infections listed above to the NHSN using standardized definitions. For each type of infection, the IPs report the number of patients with infections (numerator) and the denominator, which are either the number of patients with a given device (device days), number of surgeries (procedures), or total number of patients at risk (patient days).

The **standardized infection ratio (SIR)** is calculated as the number of observed infections divided by the total number of predicted infections. The SIR, a summary measure used to track HAI prevention progress over time, compares the number of infections reported in a facility or state to the number of infections that were "predicted" or would be expected to have occurred based on previous years of reported data (i.e., baseline data).



The number of predicted infections is an estimate based on aggregate data reported to CDC's NHSN during a specific historical baseline period. The predicted number is adjusted for each facility using variables found to be significant predictors of HAI incidence.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Healthcare Facility HAI Reporting Requirements to CMS via NHSN Current or Proposed Requirements http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/CMS/CMS-Reporting-Requirements.pdf

These numbers are also adjusted differently depending on the type of infection measured as shown below. The **2015 Rebaseline** is a term that CDC's NHSN staff uses to describe updates to the original HAI baselines. The 2015 Rebaseline updated both the source of aggregate data and the risk adjustment methodology previously used to create the original baselines. For this report, the term "NHSN baseline" will be used to refer to the current the infection-specific baseline.

For ACHs:

SIRs for CLABSIs and CAUTIs are adjusted for the following potential risk factors for infection:

- facility bed size
- medical school affiliation
- status as a cancer hospital
- ICU location.

SIRs for SSIs are updated using CDC's Complex 30-Day CMS Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) model that allows facilities to review SSI data that would be submitted to CMS on their behalf and adjusts for:

- status as a cancer hospital
- patient factors including age, gender, American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA) Score,⁷
 Body Mass Index, closure technique, diabetes, and type of surgery.

SIRs for hospital-onset *C. difficile* **and MRSA** bloodstream infections are adjusted using slightly different risk factors:

- facility bed size
- hospital affiliation with a medical school
- number of patients admitted to the hospital who already have *C. difficile* or a MRSA bloodstream infection (community-acquired cases)
- for *C. difficile*, the type of test the hospital laboratory uses to identify *C. difficile* from patient specimens.

Hospitals in Delaware

In 2024, there were eight ACHs in Delaware and their data contributed to this report. As mentioned previously, there are different risk factors that adjust the SIR baselines. These eight hospitals have all conducted an annual survey based on the NHSN standards (Table 1).

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, THE NHSN STANDARDIZED INFECTION RATIO (SIR) NHSN SIR Guide (cdc.gov)

⁷ American Society of Anesthesiologists', Statement on ASA Physical Status Classification System <u>ASA Physical Status Classification System (asahq.org)</u>

Table 1. Acute Care Hospitals in Delaware, 2024

Name and Address	Services	Beds	ICU beds*
Bayhealth Medical Center Kent Campus 640 S. State St. Dover, Del. 19901	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, and obstetrics/gynecology. Bayhealth-Kent is also a teaching institution.	243	44 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
Bayhealth Medical Center Sussex Campus 100 Wellness Way Milford, Del. 19963	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, and obstetrics/gynecology. Bayhealth-Sussex is also a teaching institution.	152	10 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
Beebe Healthcare Hospital 424 Savannah Rd. Lewes, Del. 19958	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. Beebe Healthcare is also a teaching institution.	177	20 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
ChristianaCare Hospital 4755 Ogletown Stanton Rd. Newark, Del. 19718	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. ChristianaCare Hospital is also a teaching institution.	999	151 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital 501 W. 14th St. Wilmington, Del. 19801	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital is also a teaching institution.	244	9 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
Nemours Children's Hospital 1600 Rockland Rd. Wilmington, Del. 19803	This campus provides pediatric patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, and neurology. Nemours Children's Hospital is also a teaching institution for graduate students only.	208	70 (including pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)

Table 1. Acute Care Hospitals in Delaware, 2024 (continued)

Name and Address (continued)	Services	Beds	ICU beds*
St. Francis Hospital 701 N. Clayton St. Wilmington, Del. 19805	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. St. Francis Hospital is also a teaching institution.	112	16 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital 801 Middleford Rd. Seaford, Del. 19973	This campus provides patients with care in several specialty divisions including, but not limited to, cardiology, intensive care, oncology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital is also a teaching institution for undergraduate students.	65	4 (including adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III, III, or higher)

^{*} Number of ICU beds is of the total number of beds.

Interpretation of the Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)

Calculation of the SIR will result in one of the following:

- If the SIR is less than 1.0, fewer infections were reported during the surveillance period than predicted, given the baseline data.
- If the **SIR** is **equal to 1.0**, it indicates the numerator and denominator are relatively equal. In this instance, the number of infections reported during the surveillance period is the **same as the number predicted**, given the baseline data.
- If the SIR is greater than 1.0, more infections were reported during the surveillance period than predicted, given the baseline data.

NOTE: The SIR is not calculated when the number of infections is predicted to be <1, which is due to a small number of device days, procedures, or patient days.

Confidence Interval of the Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)

Since the SIR is only an estimate of the "true" value, confidence intervals (CI) are provided which indicate the range of values within which the true SIR is thought to lie. The upper and lower limits are used to determine the statistical significance and precision of the SIR. There is a high degree of confidence that the true SIR lies within this range.

If the confidence interval includes the value of 1.0, then the SIR is *not statistically significant* (i.e., the number of observed events is not significantly different than the number predicted).

If the confidence interval does not include the value of 1.0, then the SIR *is statistically significant* (i.e., the number of observed events is significantly different than the number predicted). The confidence intervals are generally calculated at 95% (95% CI), which is an arbitrary and conveniently used level indicating that there is 95% confidence that the true SIR falls between the upper and lower limits of the CI.⁸

⁸ Rothman KJ, Greenland S, Lash TL. Study Design and Conduct. Modern Epidemiology. 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008.

Device-Related HAI Results

Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs)

A central line is a tube or catheter placed into a patient's large vein or artery, usually in the neck, chest, arm, or groin. The central venous catheter is used to draw blood, provide fluids, or administer medications and may not be removed for several weeks. A bloodstream infection can occur when bacteria or other germs gain access via the central line and enter the bloodstream. Based on 2020 data from ivWatch, an estimated 30,100 central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) occur in intensive care units and wards of U.S. acute care facilities annually. These infections are usually serious, typically causing prolonged hospital stays, increased costs, and greater mortality risk. These infections are largely preventable when healthcare providers follow CDC-recommended infection prevention steps. Hospitals across the U.S. saw a 46% decrease in CLABSIs from 2008 to 2013.

In the third quarter of 2024, a total of 11 CLABSIs were identified across all Delaware ACHs, compared to 17.51 CLABSIs predicted based on the NHSN CLABSI baseline (Table 2). The results of SIR (11/17.51) were 0.63, signifying that during this time period, Delaware identified fewer CLABSIs than predicted. Since the 95% confidence interval (0.33, 1.09) includes the value of 1, the SIR is not statistically significant. In other words, while Delaware ACHs reported lower CLABSIs than expected, the SIR did not reach statistical significance.

⁹ ivWatch, CLABSIs: Risk Factors, Causes and Prevention <u>CLABSIs: Risk Factors, Causes and Prevention - ivWatch</u>

Table 2. Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs) by Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

	Central Line	Number of Infections		CIDh	SIR ^b 95%		Interpretation of Standardized
Hospital	Device Days ^a	Observed	Predicted	SIR	Lowerd	Upper	Infection Ratio (SIR)*
ALL°	16297	11	17.51	0.63	0.33	1.09	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	1508	2	1.62	1.24	0.21	4.09	More HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus	296	0	0.29	I			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections < 1.
Beebe Healthcare	1105	0	0.98	-			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
ChristianaCare Hospital	7927	5	8.51	0.59	0.22	1.30	fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	1613	2	1.62	1.24	0.21	4.09	More HAIs were observed than predicted.
Nemours Children's Hospital	3027	2	3.81	0.53	0.09	1.74	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
St. Francis Hospital	344	0	0.31	-			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	477	0	0.38				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.

- a. Device day is a count of patients with a specific device in the patient care location during a time period.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if the observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital

Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIS)

A catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) involves infection in any part of the urinary system including urethra, bladder, ureters, and kidneys. Approximately 12% to 16% of adult hospital inpatients have a urinary catheter at some point during their hospital stay. 10 Each day that the urinary catheter remains, a patient has a 3% to 7% increased risk of acquiring a CAUTI.11

In 2015, urinary tract infections (UTIs) were the fifth most common type of healthcareassociated infection in the United States, with approximately 62,700 UTIs in ACHs. 12 Approximately 75% of UTIs acquired in the hospital are associated with a urinary catheter. 13 CAUTIS can lead to numerous complications, causing discomfort to the patient, prolonged hospital stays, or increased mortality. 14

In the third quarter of 2024, five CAUTIS were observed in all ACHs, compared to 10.86 CAUTIS predicted based on the NHSN 2015 baseline data (Table 3). The results of all ACHs SIR (5/10.86) were 0.46, signifying that during this time period, Delaware identified fewer CAUTIS than predicted. Since the 95% confidence interval (0.17,1.02) includes the value of 1, DPH concluded that the SIR is not statistically significant. In other words, ACHs did not observe a statistically significantly different number of CAUTIs than predicted in Delaware.

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Urinary Tract Infection (Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [CAUTI] and Non-Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [UTI]) and Other Urinary System Infection [USI]) Events 7 Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) (saude.sp.gov.br)

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Urinary Tract Infection (Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [CAUTI] and Non-Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [UTI]) and Other Urinary System Infection [USI]) Events 7 Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) (saude.sp.gov.br)

¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Urinary Tract Infection (Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [CAUTI] and Non-Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection [UTI]) Events Urinary Tract Infection (cdc.gov)

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection Basics | UTI | CDC

¹⁴ Scott RD. The Direct Medical Costs of Healthcare-Associated Infections in U.S. Hospitals and the Benefits of Prevention, 2009. Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009.

Table 3. Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) by Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

	Urinary	Number of Infections		SIRb	95%	% CI ^c	Interpretation of
Hospital	Catheter Device Days ^a	Observed	Predicted		Lowerd	Upper	Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) [*]
ALL ^e	7805	5	10.86	0.46	0.17	1.02	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center Kent Campus	1684	1	2.88	0.35	0.02	1.71	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center Sussex Campus	333	0	0.35				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
Beebe Healthcare	966	0	0.98	I			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
ChristianaCare Hospital	3199	3	4.94	0.61	0.16	1.65	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	593	1	0.75				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
Nemours Children's Hospital	358	0	0.39	I			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
St. Francis Hospital	256	0	0.26				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	416	0	0.31				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.

- a. Device day is a count of patients with a specific device in the patient care location during a specific time period.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if the observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital).

Surgical Site Infection Results

In 2019, an estimated 13 million operative procedures were performed in ACHs in the United States. ¹⁵ A recent prevalence study found that surgical site infections (SSIs) were the most common healthcare-associated infections, accounting for 31% of all HAIs among hospitalized patients. ¹⁶

All inpatient surgical procedures performed are assigned one or more specific ICD-10-PCS and corresponding CPT codes that correspond to "abdominal hysterectomy" and "colon surgery" procedures must be monitored for SSIs and included in SSI data submitted to NHSN.¹⁷

SSIs required to be reported to CMS include only deep incisional primary and organ/space infections that are routinely detected during the operative hospitalization or upon readmission to a hospital. These criteria avoid penalizing hospitals with more complete reporting as opposed to truly higher infection rates, since superficial SSIs may never come to the attention of hospital IPs. Only SSIs with an onset within 30 days of the procedure and SSIs identified in patients who were 18 years or older at the time of surgery are included in data that CDC reports to CMS.¹⁸

Colon Surgery

In the third quarter of 2024, seven SSIs associated with colon surgery were observed in all ACHs, compared to the 7.46 SSIs for colon surgery predicted based on NHSN 2015 baseline data (Table 4). The results of SIR (7/7.46) were 0.94, signifying that during this time period, Delaware identified more SSIs than predicted. Since the 95% confidence interval (0.41, 1.86) includes the value of 1, the SIR is not statistically significant. In other words, ACHs did not observe a statistically significantly different number of SSIs associated with colon surgeries than predicted in Delaware.

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¹⁵ National Library of Medicine, Trends in US Surgical Procedures and Health Care System Response to Policies Curtailing Elective Surgical Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic <u>Trends in US Surgical Procedures and Health Care System Response to Policies Curtailing Elective Surgical Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic - PubMed (nih.gov)</u>

¹⁶ Scott RD. The Direct Medical Costs of Healthcare-Associated Infections in U.S. Hospitals and the Benefits of Prevention, 2009. Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009.

¹⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Operational Guidance for Reporting Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Data to CDC's NHSN for the Purpose of Fulfilling CMS's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Requirements Operational Guidance for Reporting Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Data to CDC's NHSN for the Purpose of Fulfilling CMS's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Requirements

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Surgical Site Infection (SSI) <u>Surgical Site Infection (cdc.gov)</u>

Table 4. Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) Associated with Colon Surgery by Delaware Acute Care Hospital, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hospital	Inpatient ^a Procedures	Number of Infections		SIRb	95%	% CI ^c	Interpretation of Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)*
		Observed	Predicted		Lowerd	Upper	
ALLº	267	7	7.46	0.94	0.41	1.86	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	58	1	1.63	0.61	0.03	3.03	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus	21	2	0.61				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
Beebe Healthcare	39	1	1.03	0.97	0.48	4.77	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Hospital	124	3	3.56	0.84	0.21	2.29	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	9	0	0.24				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
Nemours Children's Hospital ^f							No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
St. Francis Hospital	6	0	0.15				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	10	0	0.24	-			No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.

- a. An inpatient procedure is a procedure performed on a patient whose date of admission to the facility and date of discharge are different calendar days and the procedure takes place during a surgical operation.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR.
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital.
- f. Nemours Children's Hospital is not included in the statewide SIR estimate for SSIs because colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies are not routinely performed at this hospital (i.e., pediatric population).

Abdominal Hysterectomy

In the third quarter of 2024, zero SSIs associated with Abdominal Hysterectomy surgery were observed in all ACHs, compared to the 0.97 predicted for SSIs associated with abdominal hysterectomy based on the NHSN 2015 baseline data (Table 5). SIRs were not calculated because all the ACHs predicted SSIs associated with abdominal hysterectomy infections were less than 1 for all.

Table 5. Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) Associated with Abdominal Hysterectomy by Delaware Acute Care Hospital, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hospital	Inpatient ^a Number of Infections SIR ^b 95% CI ^c		% CI°	Interpretation of Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)*			
		Observed Predicted			Lower	Upper	imodion Rado (Girty
ALLe	109	0	0.97	I	I		No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	8	0	0.07	I	I		No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus	20	0	0.17	I	I		No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
Beebe Healthcare	3	0	0.04				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
ChristianaCare Hospital	57	0	0.51				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	0	0	0				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
Nemours Children's Hospital ^f					I		No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
St. Francis Hospital	16	0	0.14				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	5	0	0.05				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is <1.

NOTE: Data contained in this report were generated on February 19, 2025.

- a. An inpatient procedure is a procedure performed on a patient whose date of admission to the facility and date of discharge are different calendar days and the procedure takes place during a surgical operation.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR.
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if the observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital.
- f. Nemours Children's Hospital is not included in the statewide SIR estimate for SSIs because colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies are not routinely performed at this hospital (i.e., pediatric population).

Hospital-Onset Laboratory-Identified Events Results

Laboratory-Identified (LabID) event reporting enables laboratory testing data to be used without clinical evaluation of the patient, allowing for a less labor-intensive method to track MRSA and *C. difficile*. Of note, while all MRSA bacteremia can be considered true infections, a positive laboratory test for *C. difficile* may or may not indicate *C. difficile* disease rather than colonization. While providers should only test patients in whom they suspect *C. difficile* disease, this test is probably over-utilized.

Clostridioides difficile Infection (C. diff)

Clostridioides difficile infection, also known as *C. difficile and C. diff*, is a bacterium that causes inflammation of the colon. Antibiotic use is the most important risk factor for *C. diff* infection along with increasing age. It is estimated that there are almost half a million cases of *C. diff* in the U.S. per year, and one in 11 people over the age of 65 who are diagnosed with *C. diff* die within a month of diagnosis. ¹⁹ CDC provides guidelines and tools to the healthcare community to help prevent *C. difficile* infections and provides resources to help the public safeguard their own health. ²⁰

In the third quarter of 2024, 30 *C. diff* infections were observed in all ACHs, compared to the 60.88 *C. diff* infections predicted based on the NHSN 2015 baseline data (Table 6). The results of SIR (30/60.88) were 0.49, signifying that during this time period, Delaware identified fewer *C. diff* infections than predicted. Since the 95% confidence interval (0.34, 0.70) does not include the values of 1, the SIR is statistically significant. In other words, ACHs did observe a statistically significantly different number of *C. diff* infections than predicted in Delaware.

¹⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, What is C.diff? About C. diff | C. diff | CDC

²⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Clostridioides difficile* Infection *Clostridioides difficile* Infection | HAI | CDCDe

Table 6. Clostridioides difficile (C. diff) Infections, Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Haanital	Patient	Number of Infections		SIRb	95%	CI ^c	Interpretation of Standardized
Hospital	Daysa	Observed	Predicted	2IK.	Lowerd	Upper	Infection Ratio (SIR)*
ALLº	131401	30	60.88	0.49	0.34	0.70	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	21870	3	9.83	0.31	0.08	0.83	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus	9577	3	3.51	0.86	0.22	2.33	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Beebe Healthcare	13828	6	6.97	0.86	0.35	1.79	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Hospital	52836	12	29.82	0.40	0.22	0.68	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	14604	1	5.21	0.19	0.01	0.95	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Nemours Children's Hospital	9524	2	2.76	0.72	0.12	2.39	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
St. Francis Hospital	3565	0	1.72	0		1.74	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	5597	3	1.07	2.81	0.72	7.66	More HAIs were observed than predicted.

- a. The number of patient days is a count of the number of patients in a patient care location.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if the observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staphylococcal bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics called beta-lactams. These antibiotics include methicillin and other common antibiotics such as oxacillin or nafcillin.

There are two types of MRSA strains: community-acquired (MRSA-CA) and healthcare-associated (MRSA-HA). In the community, MRSA infections usually manifest as skin infections, such as pimples and boils, and generally occur in otherwise healthy people. More severe or potentially life-threatening MRSA infections, such as bloodstream infections, pneumonia, and surgical site infections, occur most frequently among patients in healthcare settings. MRSA infections included in this report are only those associated with healthcare settings. MRSA infections included in this report are only those associated with ACHs with LabID event of blood cultures collected on or after the fourth day of hospitalization where the first day is the day of admission.

In the third quarter of 2024, six MRSA infections were observed in all ACHs, compared to the 9.50 MRSA infections predicted based on the NHSN 2015 baseline data (Table 7). The results of SIR (6/9.50) were 0.63, signifying that during this time period, Delaware identified fewer MRSA infections than predicted. Since the 95% confidence interval (0.26, 1.31) includes the value of 1, the SIR is not statistically significant. In other words, ACHs did not observe a statistically significantly different number of MRSA infections than predicted in Delaware.

Table 7. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Bloodstream Infections. Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hoonital	Patient	Number of	Infections	SIRb	95%	6 CIc	Interpretation of Standardized
Hospital	Daysa	Observed	Predicted	SIR	Lower ^d	Upper	Infection Ratio (SIR)*
ALLe	145205	6	9.50	0.63	0.26	1.31	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	22731	1	1.29	0.78	0.04	3.83	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus	9965	0	0.78				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
Beebe Healthcare	14193	0	0.71	ı	-		No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
ChristianaCare Hospital	61393	4	4.64	0.86	0.27	2.08	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	14604	1	1.45	0.69	0.04	3.41	Fewer HAIs were observed than predicted.
Nemours Children's Hospital	12359	0	0.31				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
St. Francis Hospital	3908	0	0.13				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	6052	0	0.20				No conclusion. SIR is not calculated when the predicted number of infections is < 1.

- a. The number of patient days is a count of the number of patients in a patient care location.
- b. Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is only calculated if the predicted number is greater than or equal to 1.
- c. Confidence Limits are endpoints of the confidence interval, a range of values that accounts for random error in estimation of the SIR.
- d. The lower bound of 95% confidence interval is only calculated if the observed number is greater than 0.
- e. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital

Organisms Line Listing Report

The line listing is an organized, detailed list of each organism entered in NHSN for the reporting period of July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 for ACH Bloodstream Infections (BSI), Surgical Site Infections (SSI), and Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) events. The Organisms Line Listing report shows the ACH name, NHSN code (abbreviation), and event type to provide context for the following visual of graphs displaying most commonly found organisms this quarter. (Tables 8, 9, 10)

Table 8. Line List of pathogens identified in Bloodstream Infections (BSI), Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, of July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hospital Name ^A	NHSN Organism Name (NHSN Code)	Number of
De le chile Marillani Contra	Continue (CC)	Organisms ^B
Bayhealth Medical Center,	Candida glabrata (CG)	1
Kent Campus	War of (WEACT)	4
Bayhealth Medical Center,	Yeast (YEAST)	1
Kent Campus	Material Communication (MD)	4
Bayhealth Medical Center,	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1
Kent Campus	Start transfer (SA)	4
Bayhealth Medical Center,	Staphylococcus aureus (SA)	1
Sussex Campus	W 1 : W (VO)	
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella oxytoca (KO)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Candida albicans (CA)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron	1
	(BACTH)	
ChristianaCare Hospital	Enterococcus faecium (ENTFM)	2
ChristianaCare Hospital	Streptococcus pneumoniae (SP)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Gemella morbillorum (GEMMO)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Staphylococcus aureus (SA)	2
ChristianaCare Hospital	Escherichia coli (EC)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella aerogenes (EA)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Streptococcus mitis group (STRMIT)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Staphylococcus epidermidis (SE)	1
ChristianaCare Wilmington	Staphylococcus aureus (SA)	1
Hospital		
ChristianaCare Wilmington	Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA)	1
Hospital		
Nemours Children's Hospital	Candida lusitaniae (CANLU)	1
Nemours Children's Hospital	Staphylococcus epidermidis (SE)	1
Nemours Children's Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1

NOTE: Data contained in this report were generated on February 19, 2025.

A. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital).

B. An event type can report up to three pathogens per patient.

Table 9. Line List of pathogens identified in Surgical Site Infections (SSI), Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hospital Name	NHSN Organism Name (NHSN Code)	Number of organisms
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus	Bacteroides fragilis (BF)	1
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Bacteroides fragilis (BF)	3
Campus		
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Bacteroides fragilis group (BFG)	1
Campus		
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Candida albicans (CA)	1
Campus		
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Corynebacterium amycolatum	1
Campus	(CORAMY)	
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Enterobacter cloacae (ENC)	1
Campus		
BeeBe Healthcare	Enterococcus avium (ENTA)	1
BeeBe Healthcare	Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS)	2
ChristianaCare Hospital	Enterococcus faecium (ENTFM)	2
ChristianaCare Hospital	Escherichia coli (EC)	4
ChristianaCare Hospital	Escherichia coli (EC)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Escherichia coli (EC)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Hafnia (HAFSP)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Not Identified	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Proteus mirabilis (PM)	1
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA)	1
ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital	Staphylococcus aureus (SA)	1
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	Staphylococcus aureus (SA)	1
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	Staphylococcus epidermidis (SE)	1
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	Streptococcus anginosus (STRVN)	1
TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital	Streptococcus anginosus (STRVN)	1

A. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital).

B. An event type can report up to three pathogens per patient.

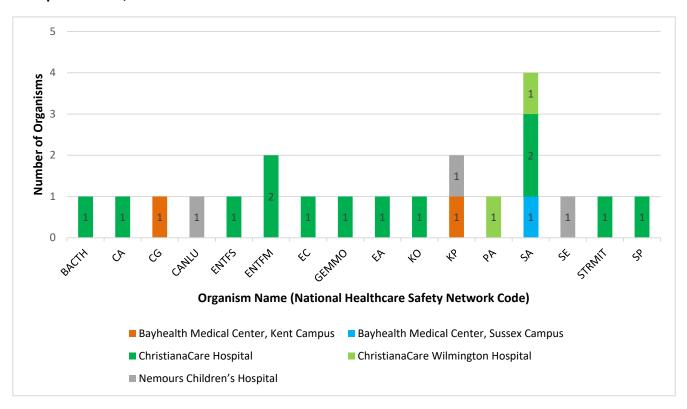
Table 10. Line List of pathogens identified in Urinary Tract Infections (UTI), Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Hospital Name ^A	NHSN Organism Name (NHSN Code)	Number of Organisms ^B
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent	Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS)	1
Campus		
Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent	Escherichia coli (EC)	1
Campus		
Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex	Escherichia coli (EC)	2
Campus		
ChristianaCare Hospital	Escherichia coli (EC)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	2
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1
ChristianaCare Hospital	Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP)	1
ChristianaCare Wilmington	Proteus mirabilis (PM)	1
Hospital		
ChristianaCare Wilmington	Proteus mirabilis (PM)	1
Hospital		
Nemours Children's Hospital	Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA)	1

A. Acute Hospitals listed (Bayhealth Medical Center, Kent Campus; Bayhealth Medical Center, Sussex Campus; Beebe Healthcare; ChristianaCare Hospital; Nemours Children's Hospital; St. Francis Hospital; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; ChristianaCare Wilmington Hospital).

B. An event type can report up to three pathogens per patient.

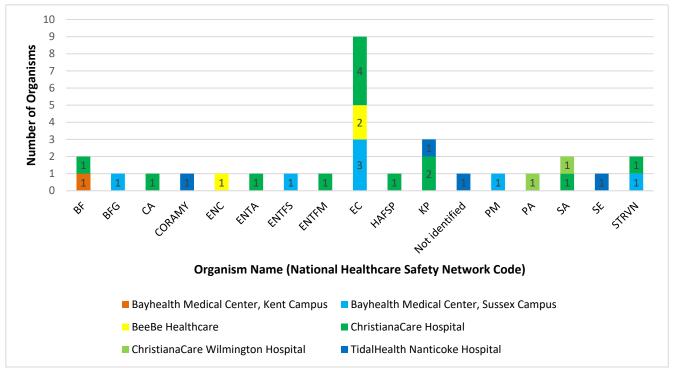
Figure 1. Bloodstream Infections (BSIs) Pathogens by Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024



NOTE:

- A. Acute Hospitals Beebe Healthcare; TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital; and St. Francis Hospital did not report Bloodstream Infections (BSIs) Pathogens.
- B. Organism name (NHSN code) listed: Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron (BACTH), Candida albicans (CA), Candida glabrata (CG), Candida lusitaniae (CANLU), Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS), Enterococcus faecium (ENTFM), Escherichia coli (EC), Gemella morbillorum (GEMMO), Klebsiella aerogenes (EA), Klebsiella oxytoca (KO), Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA), Staphylococcus aureus (SA), Staphylococcus epidermidis (SE), Streptococcus mitis group (STRMIT), Streptococcus pneumoniae (SP), Yeast (YEAST)

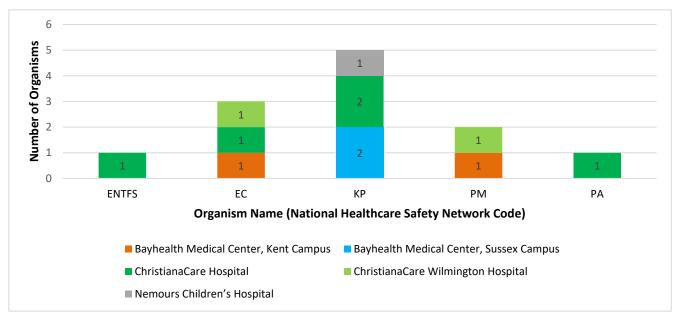
Figure 2. Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) Pathogens by Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024



NOTE:

- A. Acute Hospitals Nemours Children's Hospital; and St. Francis Hospital did not report Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) pathogens.
- B. Organism name (NHSN code) listed: Bacteroides fragilis (BF), Bacteroides fragilis group (BFG), Candida albicans (CA), Corynebacterium, amycolatum (CORAMY), Enterobacter cloacae (ENC), Enterococcus avium (ENTA), Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS), Enterococcus faecium (ENTFM), Escherichia coli (EC), Hafnia (HAFSP), Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP), Not Identified, Proteus mirabilis (PM), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA), Staphylococcus aureus (SA), Staphylococcus epidermidis (SE), Streptococcus anginosus (STRVN)

Figure 3. Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) Pathogens by Delaware Acute Care Hospitals, July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024



NOTE:

- A. Acute Hospitals Beebe Healthcare; St. Francis Hospital; and TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital did not report Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs).
- B. Organism name (NHSN code) listed: Enterococcus faecalis (ENTFS), Escherichia coli (EC), Klebsiella pneumoniae (KP), Proteus mirabilis (PM), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA)

Appendix A

A1. Membership of the Delaware Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee, 2022

Name	Position in Code ²⁵	Affiliation
Abdul-Alim, Lorraine	Quality Member	Select Medical
Achenbach, Robin	Health Insurer	Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Anderson, Donna	Hospital Infection Control	Stockley Center
Briody, Carol	Infection Control Practitioner	ChristianaCare Hospital
Cerri, Anneke	Infection Control Nurse	Delaware Department of Correction
Chasanov, William	Infectious Disease Physician	Beebe Healthcare
Drees, Marci	Infectious Disease Physician	ChristianaCare Hospital
Duffalo, Chad	Infectious Disease Physician	ChristianaCare Hospital
Eppes, Stephen	Infectious Disease Physician	ChristianaCare Hospital
Fierro, Amy	Infection Control Prevention Practitioner	DHSS, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Fischer, Kimberly	Hospital Infection Control	TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital
Gardner, Kelly (Chair)	Infection Control Prevention Practitioner	Bayhealth Medical Center
Gilman, Margaret	Infection Control Prevention Practitioner	Nemours Children's Hospital
Heiks, Cheryl	Consumer Organization	Delaware Healthcare Facilities Association
Helmick, Holly	Infection Control Prevention Practitioner	Bayhealth Medical Center
Maduka-Ezeh, Awele	Medical Director	DHSS, Division of Public Health
Horney, Jennifer	Academic Researcher	University of Delaware College of Health Sciences
Mills, James V.	Infection Control Prevention Practitioner	Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Olurin, Omo	Health Maintenance Organization	Delaware Physicians Care Inc.
Richardson, Elizabeth	Hospital Infection Control	Beebe Healthcare
Sagisi, Alfredo	Dialysis	Fresenius Medical Care
Sanders, Lisa	Organized Labor	United Food and Commercial Workers Local 152
Snow, Jessica	Purchaser of Health Insurance	N/A
Tatman, Jill	Direct Care Nursing Staff	Bayhealth Medical Center
Watts, Lynn	Freestanding Surgical Center	Eden Hill Medical Center
Williams, Megan	Healthcare Association	Delaware Healthcare Association

Source: Delaware Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee Membership List, 2022-2023.

Appendix B

Hospital Comments (Not for Publication)