

Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing (HARP) Programme Deep Dive for QSIC

18.10.2022



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Background

- Origins of the HARP programme from two separate programmes:
 - HCAI programme – WHAIP
 - Antimicrobial Resistance Programme – WARP
- Both originated in surveillance programmes
 - 1996 MRSA surveillance began
 - 2004 – Scientist seconded from Microbiology to start collecting antimicrobial surveillance data.
- Brought together as a joint programme from 2017.
 - **H**ealthcare **A**ssociated Infection, Antimicrobial **R**esistance and **P**rescribing (**HARP**) Programme



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HARP from 2017

Surveillance

- HCAI – Laboratory & Clinical
- Antimicrobial – Usage & Resistance

Infection Prevention & Control

- Expert Advice
- Guidelines
- Tools and Resources

Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Expert Advice
- Antimicrobial Guidance
- Start Smart then Focus audit tool

Senior Team Members

- Surveillance
 - Dr Mari Morgan – Senior Scientist Lead for “Laboratory surveillance - HCAI”
 - Dr Wendy Harrison – Senior Scientist Lead for “Clinical Surveillance - HCAI”
 - Dr Margaret Heginbotham – Senior Scientist Antimicrobial Surveillance
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
 - Dr Nik Reid – Consultant Antimicrobial Pharmacist
 - Meryl Davies – Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacist, Community.
 - Katerina Vardulaki – guideline writer.
- Infection Prevention and Control Team – External facing (supporting NHS Wales and community health and care)
 - Beverley Gregory – Consultant Nurse IPC
 - Amanda Daniel – Lead IPC Nurse, Community.
 - Lisa Manchipp-Taylor – Lead IPC Nurse, Acute Sector.
 - Gail Lusardi – retired Consultant Nurse IPC, providing COVID-cover and locum support.

Recent Challenges

- COVID Pandemic
 - Disruption of healthcare services has disrupted our surveillance.
 - Most of the team focussed on COVID response for 2.5 years – only now really moving back to focus on our core business.
- Staffing changes
 - Retirements
 - Change of roles
 - New recruitment into the team during pandemic / virtual working.
- Development of Directorate Programme Structure
 - SRO for the programme retained within my new DMD role.



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Drivers for our Work

- Initially focussed around the drives to reduce healthcare associated infections. MRSA, *C. difficile* etc.
- More recently with the publication in 2019 of the UK AMR Strategy the programme work has been heavily influenced by the need to deliver the National Action Plan in Wales.



HM Government

Tackling antimicrobial resistance 2019–2024

The UK's five-year national action plan

Published 24 January 2019

3 years into second 5
year NAP

COVID-19 pandemic

Addendum to NAP
published May 2022

Call to consider next
NAP 5 year from 2024.



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WHC – Improvement Goals for HCAI & AMR

[amr-hcai-improvement-goals-for-2021-2023.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

WHC (2022) Number 014

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 1 March 2022

STATUS: ACTION / INFORMATION
CATEGORY: QUALITY & SAFETY

Title: AMR & HCAI IMPROVEMENT GOALS FOR 2021-23

Date of Expiry / Review: 31st March 2023

To Note: This WHC is being extended to 31st March 2023 and will be revised at that time.

For Action by:

Health Boards/Trusts:
Chief Executives
Medical Directors
Nurse Executive Directors
Infection Control Doctors & Nurses

Action required by: 1st October 2021

For information;
Welsh Government:
DG/Chief Executive
NHS Wales Deputy Chief Exec
NHS Wales Professional & Policy Leads



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WG AMR Review October to December 2022

HARP team engagement in the review:

- Reports on current position against the NAP based on our surveillance and a gap analysis.
- Report on data requirements and interdependencies to deliver antimicrobial surveillance.
- Questionnaires and interviews.

Other teams across PHW have also been approached as well as partners / stakeholders across the NHS in Wales and the broader “one health” partners.



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Key Partnership Working within PHW

- The Network of Public Health Wales Microbiology laboratories, Microbiologists and Infection Control Doctors.
- Specialist Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Unit (SACU)
- Pathogen genomics unit
- Network of Healthcare Epidemiologists
- CDSC
- Improvement Cymru
- QNAHPS – PHW internal IPC Lead Nurse.



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Post-COVID return to BAU - Surveillance

- Surveillance of HCAI & AMR in human health continued throughout the pandemic, but disruption and delays to certain aspects:
 - Surgical site infection surveillance paused alongside pauses in elective surgery
 - Delays in ICNET developments as focus to support surveillance of COVID-19.
 - Effects of service disruption clear to see in trend data during pandemic, only now starting to return to pre-pandemic levels.
 - Now re-engaging with full range of surveillance and taking forward new developments.



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Overall position – human health

- Long term decreasing trends in MRSA bacteraemia and *C. difficile* have been interrupted by the changes in healthcare delivery during the pandemic and have yet to stabilise.
- Prior to the pandemic, small decreases had been achieved in *E. coli* bacteraemia reversing long-term increasing trends. Large reductions in *E. coli* bacteraemia were observed during the pandemic period, and incidence has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.



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Overall position – human health

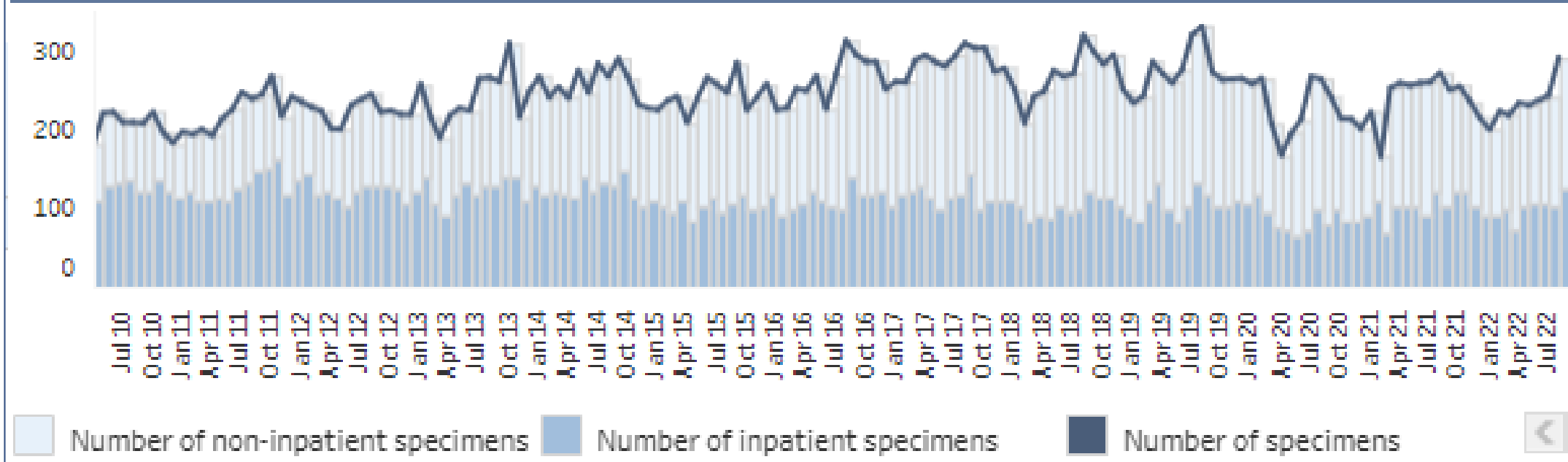
- Antimicrobial Usage in Primary Care:
 - In July 2019, the Welsh Government introduced antimicrobial improvement goals for the 2023/24 financial year. The ten year goal for primary care is a minimum 25% reduction in total antimicrobial volume compared to the baseline year of 2013/14. Currently, four Health Boards have already met the 25% reduction target
 - In 2021/22, there was an increase in total antibacterial usage in all seven Health Boards, compared with the previous year.
- Antimicrobial Usage in Secondary Care:
 - Coupled with service disruption due to COVID-19, there has also been a roll out of a new pharmacy system, which has meant that secondary care data is delayed.



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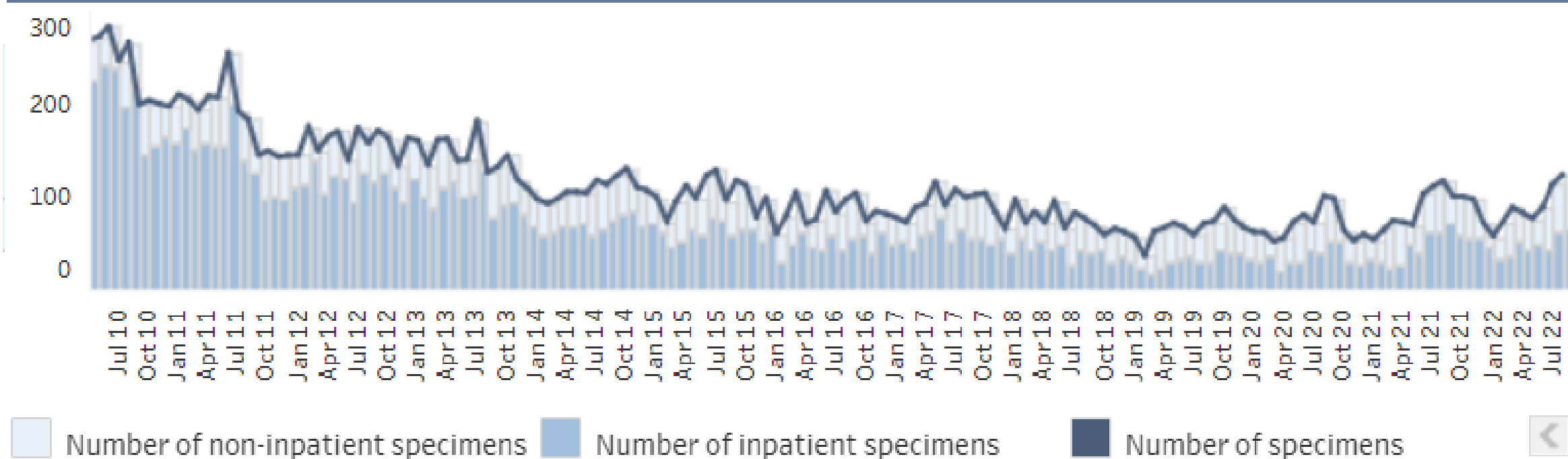
Chart 1. Wales monthly numbers of Gram negative bacteraemia by location type, Apr 10 to Aug 22



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Chart 1. Wales monthly numbers of C. difficile by location type, Apr 10 to Aug 22



HARP work-plan 2022-23

- Return to regular reporting against WG Improvement Goals, with support for HBs and Trusts
- Re-engaging / re-booting surveillance development plans:
 - SSI surveillance
 - CPO surveillance
 - Splitting healthcare associated infections from community infections.
 - Re-mapping antimicrobial data with new pharmacy system.
 - Developing antimicrobial portal to include resistance data.
 - Automating data analysis and reports.



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Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Antimicrobial Guideline work continues
- Network of antimicrobial pharmacists re-engaging.
- EAAD / WAAW 18th – 24th November 2022
 - Secondary care IV –oral switching Focus on antimicrobial ward rounds.
 - Social media outputs
 - PHW Comms team support
 - Primary care activities and links with Animal Health – ARWAIN DGC
- Implementation and Development of SSTF / ARK



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Education and Training

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum and IPC Forums held again.
- Surgical Site Infection Conference – 15.09.2022
- ANTT workshops held.
- Webinars on transitioning away from COVID-19 specific IPC guidance.
- UTI Improvement Group.

Infection Prevention and Control

- Move away from COVID specific IPC guidance
- Focus on winter planning
- Back to using National IPC manual

End of UK COVID-19 IPC guidance after 28 months

- UK COVID-19 IPC Guidance ***archived end of May 2022***
 - [UK Government Web Archive \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk)



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UK Government Web Archive

Timeline for:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

878 instances from 3 years

2022 - 88 instances

2021 - 342 instances

2020 - 448 instances



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NIPCM Wales

- NIPCM Wales in place and available with potential for further development in collaboration with 4-nation colleagues
- [NIPCM - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://nhs.uk)



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NIPCM

We have teamed up with NHS Scotland to host and utilise their electronic National Infection Control Manual (NICM) to ensure all healthcare organisations in Wales have access to consistent, current and standardised policies to support practice.

Model Policies for Infection Prevention and Control for Standard Infection Control Precaution Precautions and Transmission-based Precaution Policies previously developed and by Public Health Wales have been superseded by the adoption of the Scottish National Infection Control Manual (NICM).

This e-manual has been adopted for use by all healthcare organisations in Wales and is based on systematic reviews of the literature and policies from Health Protection Scotland and we gratefully acknowledge their work.

As part of routine updating of the manual, Public Health Wales contribute to the consensus committee that approves and ratifies changes to ensure they are fit for purpose.

NIPCM Index

- ▶ [About the Manual](#)
- ▶ [Responsibilities](#)
- ▶ [Chapter 1 - Standard Infection Control Precautions \(SICPs\)](#)
- ▶ [Chapter 2 - Transmission Based Precautions \(TBPs\)](#)
- ▶ [Chapter 3 - Healthcare Infection Incidents, Outbreaks & Data Exceedance](#)
- ▶ [Addendum for Infection Prevention and Control within Neonatal Settings \(NNU\)](#)
- ▶ [Glossary](#)
- ▶ [Appendices](#)
- ▶ [A-Z Pathogens](#)

Coronavirus Specific Guidance moved to HARP pages

- Coronavirus specific guidance now available on HARP IPC pages:
 - [Guidance - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/public-health-wales)
 - Plan to update with risk assessments, outbreak control documents.
- Pathogen specific guidance SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19), developed and published on PHW website to coincide with removal of the UK COVID-19 IPC guidance



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**Infection Prevention and Control Measures for
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in Health and Care Settings -
WALES.**

Home > Services and Teams > HARP > Infection prevention and control



Infection prevention and control

Infections
Information leaflets for patients and the public

Guidance
For specific settings, scenarios and diseases

NIPCM
National infection prevention and control manual

Compendium
Compendium of HCAI guidance

ANTT
Aseptic non-touch technique

Toolkits and Resources

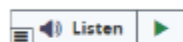
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On this page

[Settings](#)

[Scenarios](#)

[Infections](#)



Guidance

Infection Prevention & Control: Guidance for Specific Settings, Scenarios & Infections

Please see the [National Infection Prevention & Control Manual \(NIPCM\)](#) and [Compendium of HCAI Guidance](#) for national policies.

Additionally, the following guidance has also been produced by Public Health Wales for specific diseases, settings and scenarios. Please also refer to guidance published by [Public Health England](#) where appropriate.






+ Coronavirus guidance

+ Settings


+ Scenarios

+ Infections

Coronavirus guidance

- [COVID-19: infection prevention and control \(IPC\)](#) 
- [Ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#) 
- [FAQ-003: FAQs on using single use/ disposable FFP3 respiratory protective equipment \(RPE\) for hospital staff](#)  (27 April 2021) [English]
- [Respiratory protective equipment \(RPE\)](#)  (HSE guidance on respiratory protection)
- [3M™ FT-10 and 3M™ FT-30 qualitative fit testing kits](#)  (video from 3M Personal Safety UK on how to carry out a qualitative fit test)

Social care

- [GUI-001: Guidance to prevent COVID-19 among care home residents and manage cases, incidents and outbreaks in residential care settings in Wales \(28 January 2022\)](#) [English]
- [SOP-020: Management of incidents, and outbreaks of acute respiratory infection \(ARI\) in residential care settings for adults for the winter period \(2021/22\) Version 1.3 \(28 January 2022\)](#) [English]
 - [SOP-020 Annex B Training Video](#)
 - [SOP-020 Annex C Training Video](#)
- [ADV-001: PHW advisory note - Use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) in social care settings \(care homes and domiciliary care\)](#)  (13 January 2022) [English]
- [GUI-006: Guide to facilitating visiting into or out of care homes during the coronavirus pandemic \(28 January 2022\)](#) [English]



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Challenges for 2022 - 2024

- Impact of COVID
 - Changes in working arrangements
 - Workforce pressures across the NHS and Care sector in Wales
- HARP Programme team is a small team delivering a huge agenda and trying to mirror work / activity undertaken by much larger teams particularly in England and Scotland.
- Review of UK AMR NAP with new targets for next 5 year cycle.
- WG AMR Review.
- Re-engaging and re-focussing WG, HBs and Trusts on the urgency of the global threat of AMR.



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