Intercare Corporate Group Inc. - "*The Heart of Excellence*"

Infection Prevention & Control

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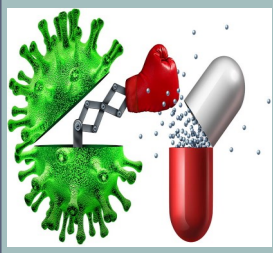


Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (AROs)

Antibiotic resistance happens when germs, like bacteria and fungi, develop an ability to defeat (resist) antibiotic/antifungal medications that are designed to kill them. When this happens, the germs are not killed and instead continue to grow. Resistant infections can be difficult, and sometimes even impossible, to treat.

Antibiotic/Antimicrobial resistance is an urgent global public health threat, killing at least 1.27 million people worldwide and associated with nearly 5 million deaths in 2019.

Antibiotic/Antimicrobial resistance has the potential to affect people at any stage of life, as well as the healthcare, veterinary and agricultural industries. This makes it one of the world's most urgent public health problems.

Bacteria and fungi do not have to be resistant to every antibiotic or antifungal to be dangerous; their resistance to even one antibiotic can create serious problems. For example: Antimicrobial - resistant infections that require the use of 'second-line' and 'third-line' treatments can harm patients by causing serious side effects such as organ failure; 'second-line' and 'third-line' treatments can also prolong care and recovery, sometimes for months.

Many medical advances are dependent on the ability to fight infections using antibiotics, including joint replacements, organ transplants, cancer therapies and the treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, asthma and rheumatoid arthritis

In some cases, these infections have no treatment options. If antibiotics and antifungals lose their effectiveness, then the ability to treat infections and control these public health threats is lost.

Examples of **AROs** include:

- **ESBL** (Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase) - ESBL production is associated with a bacteria usually found in the bowel.
- **MRSA** (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) - MRSA most often appears as a skin infection, like a boil or abscess. It also might infect a surgical wound.
- **VRE** (Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci) - VRE can cause infection of the urinary tract, bloodstream or wounds associated with surgical procedures.
- **Clostridiodes Difficile** - C. Difficile causes an infection of the colon
- **Candida Auris** - C. Auris can cause infections in different parts of the body such as in the bloodstream, open wounds, and ears.

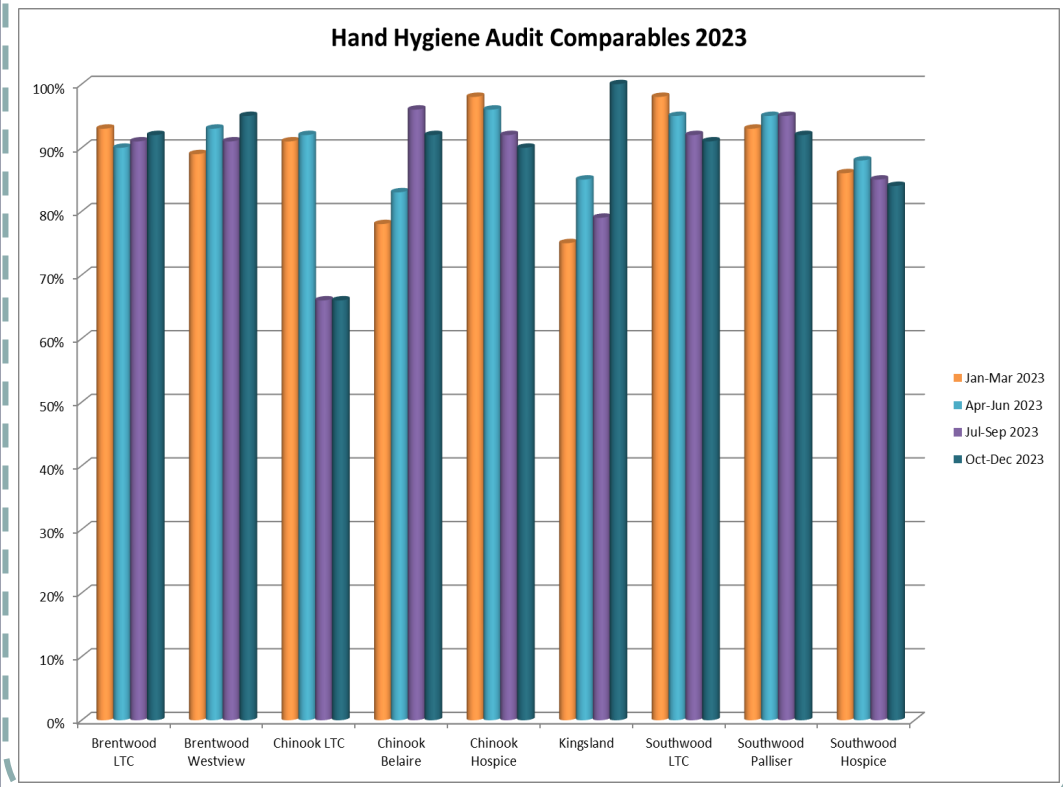
THREE (3) KEY MESSAGES TO ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND:

- ***Handwashing*** *is the best way to stop the spread of infections.*
- *Bacteria and viruses are different. Both can cause infections, but* ***antibiotics only work against bacterial infections****.*
- ***Use antibiotics wisely*** *to limit the development of antibiotic RESISTANCE.*

Hand Hygiene Auditing

Hand Hygiene Auditing is done on a monthly basis at all Intercare sites. During these audits, the “Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene” are observed, as well as proper glove use.

The graph below shows results of on-going Hand Hygiene Auditing at Intercare Care Homes.



Infection Prevention & Control Newsletter Survey

The purpose of the Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) newsletter survey is to collect feedback from our valued residents and staff. The feedback we receive from our residents and staff will be used to help inform and guide our future Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) newsletters.

Survey participation is completely voluntary and the information gathered from our survey respondents will be kept confidential.

SURVEY LINK:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IPC-NEWSLETTER-WHNR8PR