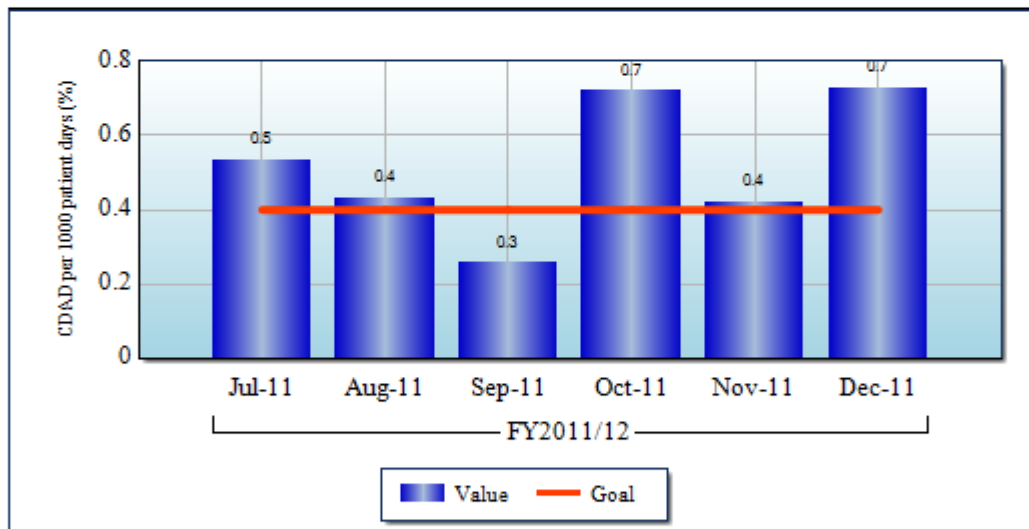


C. difficile Associated Disease (CDAD)

Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*) is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions such as colitis. It is the most common cause of infectious diarrhea in hospitalized patients in the industrialized world.

The use of antibiotics increases the chances of developing *C. difficile* diarrhea. Treatment with antibiotics alters the normal levels of good bacteria found in the intestines. When there are fewer of these good bacteria, *C. difficile* can thrive and produce toxins that can cause an infection. The combination of the presence of *C. difficile* in hospitals and the number of people receiving antibiotics in these settings can lead to the spread of CDAD. By washing your hands often, you can greatly reduce your chances of picking up *C. difficile*.

Rate of Hospital Acquired CDAD



December 2011 CVH Data:

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.73
Total Cases	9

Interpretation:

For the month of December, the number of healthcare associated *C. difficile* cases increased compared to the previous month. During this time, no outbreak related to *C. difficile* infection was declared. However, heightened surveillance, proper hand hygiene practices, enhanced cleaning procedures and use of appropriate additional precautions were reviewed and reinforced.

The Infection Prevention and Control team remains vigilant in the early detection of *C. difficile* cases and implementing appropriate control measures in an effort to decrease future transmission and acquisition.