

# Public Inquiry Into the Clostridium difficile Outbreak in Northern Health and Social Care Trust Hospitals

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Public Inquiry into the Outbreak  
of **Clostridium Difficile**  
in Northern Trust Hospitals

[www.cdifquiry.org](http://www.cdifquiry.org)

# Aim of Patient/Relative Group Meeting

- To advise patients and relatives about the role purpose and processes of the Public Inquiry
- To give patients and relatives the opportunity to informally contribute to the Inquiry by relating their experiences.

# Terms of Reference

- To establish how many deaths occurred in N.H.S.C.T. Hospitals during the outbreak, for which C. diff was the underlying cause of death, or was a condition contributing to death- (16<sup>th</sup> June 2007- 31st August 2008)
- To examine and report on the experiences of patients and others who were affected directly by the outbreak, and to make recommendations accordingly.



# Hospitals Involved

- Antrim Area Hospital
  - Braid Valley Hospital
  - Mid Ulster Hospital
    - Moyle Hospital
  - Whiteabbey Hospital
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- Outbreak Period- 16<sup>th</sup> June 07- 31<sup>st</sup> August 08

# Statement of Purpose

- The Inquiry Panel wish to:
- Hear the views of those who were affected
- Ensure the process is fair, inquiring not adversarial in nature
- Contribute to restoring confidence in the Trust in the local communities it serves
- Increase understanding of the risk that infections pose in hospital care and challenge unnecessary or exaggerated apprehensions
- Make recommendations aimed at improving the response to any future outbreak

# Inquiry Stages

- Stage I – Awareness raising by Press releases, Media, Briefing sessions
- Stage II- Information gathering- via mail, questionnaires and informal group meetings
- Stage III- Formal Evidence Gathering through written statements taken from individuals directly affected by the outbreak
- Stage IV- Formal Oral Hearings if necessary

# Why do we need to hear from Patients and relatives?

- Because they are some of those who were directly affected
- To get first hand accounts of their experiences
- To hear suggestions on what could be done differently when c diff infection occurs in a hospital

# How we will handle your information in Stages III and IV

- Public Inquiry under the 2005 Inquiries Act - legislative requirements
- Under the Inquiry Witness Protocol there is provision for anonymity to be granted if there are special reasons for this

# Inquiry Contact Details

- Website: [www.cdifquiry.org](http://www.cdifquiry.org) – questionnaire and further information on the Inquiry
- E mail: [inquiry@cdifquiry.org](mailto:inquiry@cdifquiry.org)
- Telephone number: 028 9051 7250
- Address: Premier Business Centre, 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB
- Contact Person- Kate McClements, Secretary to the Inquiry

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