

Conclusions: Use of contact precautions for patients with MDROs is heterogeneous, and policies vary based on the organism. Although most hospitals still routinely use contact precautions for MRSA and VRE, this practice has declined substantially since 2014. Changes in contact-precaution policies may have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, and more specifically, contemporary public health guidance is needed to define who requires contact precautions and for what duration.

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Validation of automated surveillance of healthcare-associated infections using electronic screening algorithms

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Background: Surveillance of healthcare-associated infection (HAI) is the basis of infection prevention programs. However, manual review of medical records is a labor-intensive and time-consuming process. We evaluated the diagnostic performance of automated surveillance of HAI using electronic screening algorithms. **Methods:** Between April and June 2022, we conducted surveillance of HAI manually and automatically using electronic screening algorithm on 75 units (general medical and surgical wards and ICUs) in a 2,700-bed, tertiary-care hospital in South Korea. Algorithms for surveillance of HAI were developed accordance with NHSN surveillance definitions (Fig. 1). Catheter-associated urinary tract

Figure 1. Algorithm for surveillance of healthcare-associated infection (HAI).

CAUTI, Catheter-associated urinary tract infection; NHSN, National Healthcare Safety Network; CLABSI, Central line-associated Bloodstream Infection; SBAP, Secondary Bloodstream Infection Attribution Period; IWP, Infection Window Period; DOE, Day of Event;

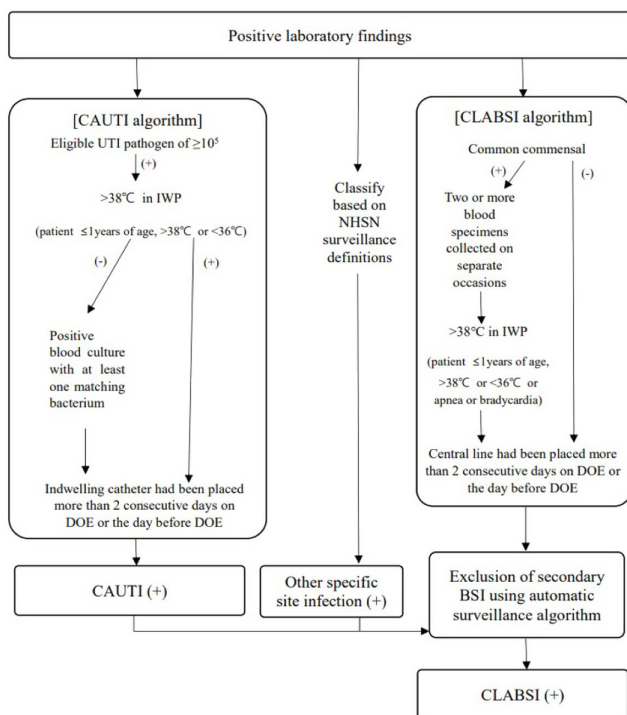


Table 1. Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV) of algorithms for electronic screening of catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) and central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI).

CAUTI		Manual surveillance		
		(+)	(-)	Total
Automated surveillance	(+)	78	0	78
	(-)	1	2,443	2,444
	Total	79	2,443	2,522
Sensitivity		98.7% (78/79; 95% CI, 93.2%-99.9%)		
Specificity		100.0% (2,443/2,443; 95% CI, 99.9%-100%)		
PPV		100.0% (78/78)		
NPV		100.0% (2,443/2,444; 95% CI, 99.7%-100.0%)		
CLABSI		Manual surveillance		
		(+)	(-)	Total
Automated surveillance	(+)	214	102	316
	(-)	6	5,759	5,765
	Total	220	5,861	6,081
Sensitivity		97.3% (214/220; 95% CI, 94.2%-98.9%)		
Specificity		98.3% (5,759/5,861; 95% CI, 97.9%-98.6%)		
PPV		67.7% (214/316; 95% CI, 63.4%-71.8%)		
NPV		99.9% (5,759/5,765; 95% CI, 99.8%-99.6%)		

infections (CAUTIs) were automatically detected when eligible pathogen and fever (>38°C) were matched within infection window period. Other specific types of infection were automatically classified based on laboratory results that met NHSN criteria. After the algorithm showed possible cases that met laboratory-confirmed bloodstream infection (LCBI) criteria, we excluded secondary BSIs using the automatic surveillance algorithm. We analyzed sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), and negative predictive value (NPV) for the automated surveillance system compared to manual surveillance. **Results:** An algorithm for detecting CAUTI showed 98.7% sensitivity (78 of 79), 100.0% specificity (2,443 of 2,443), 100.0% PPV (78 of 78), and 100.0% NPV (2,443 of 2,444). For CLABSI, the algorithm had 97.3% sensitivity (214 of 220), 98.3% specificity (5,759 of 5,861), 67.7% PPV (214 of 316), and 99.9% NPV (5,759 of 5,765). In total, 102 cases of possible CLABSI were identified by the algorithm, and 76 (74.5%) were eventually diagnosed as secondary BSIs. Also, by chart review, 20 BSIs (19.6%) were present on arrival in ER (ER-POA). In 4 cases (3.9%), an original pathogen reoccurred in a repeated infection timeframe (RIT), and 2 cases (2%) were mucosal barrier injury-LCBI (MBI-LCBI). When we additionally performed manual surveillance for intra-abdominal infection secondary BSI, ER-POA, and assigning pathogen to original BSI in RIT, PPV increased to 87.7% (214 of 244). **Conclusions:** Algorithm for automated surveillance of CAUTI had good performance; however, automated surveillance of CLABSI was suboptimal. More elaborate screening algorithm for diagnosis CLABSI is needed, and further studies are needed to determine whether an automated surveillance system can reduce workload for surveillance of HAI.

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Risk factors for the transmission of *Clostridioides difficile* or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in acute care

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Background: Some hospitals continue to struggle with nosocomial transmission of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) despite years of infection control efforts. We investigated the relationship between unit infrastructural-

organizational risk factors and nosocomial transmission of CDI and MRSA. **Methods:** This retrospective observational study included 100 eligible acute-care inpatient units from 12 hospitals in British Columbia, Canada, from April 1, 2020, to September 16, 2021. The outcome variables included whether a unit was on the CDI or MRSA vulnerable unit list (ie, defined as having ≥ 5 CDI cases or ≥ 6 MRSA cases being attributed to the unit in the last 6 fiscal periods), the average CDI/MRSA rate, as well as the average CDI/MRSA standardized infection ratio (SIR). Independent variables included, but were not limited to, infection control factors (eg hand hygiene rate), infrastructural factors (eg, unit age, total beds on unit), and organizational factors (eg, hallway bed utilization, nursing overtime). Multivariable regression was performed to identify statistically significant risk factors using SAS, R Studio, and Stata software. **Results:** For CDI, older units were associated with higher odds of being on the CDI vulnerable unit list (aOR, 1.086; 95% CI, 1.024–1.175), higher CDI rate (adjusted relative risk [aRR], 0.012; 95% CI, 0.004–0.020), and higher CDI SIR (aRR, 0.011; 95% CI, 0.003–0.020). Larger unit size was associated with higher odds of being on the CDI vulnerable unit list (aOR, 1.210; 95% CI, 1.095–1.400) and higher CDI SIR (aRR, 0.013; 95% CI, 0.001–0.026). For MRSA, an increase in hand hygiene rate was associated with lower odds of being on the MRSA vulnerable unit list (aOR, 0.71; 95% CI, 0.53–0.897), lower MRSA rate (aRR, -0.035 ; 95% CI, -0.063 to -0.008), and lower MRSA SIR (aRR, -0.039 ; 95% CI, -0.069 to -0.008). Higher MRSA bioburden was associated with higher odds of being on the MRSA vulnerable unit list (aOR, >999 ; 95% CI, >999 to >999), higher MRSA rate (aRR, 9.008; 95% CI, 5.586–12.429), and higher MRSA SIR (aRR, 4.964; 95% CI, 1.971–7.958). Additionally, higher MRSA rates were associated increased utilization of hallway beds (aRR, 0.680; 95% CI, 0.094–1.267), increased nursing overtime rate (aRR, 5.018; 95% CI, 1.210–8.826), and not having a clean supply room with the door consistently closed (aRR, -0.283 ; 95% CI, -0.536 to -0.03). **Conclusions:** Several infrastructural and organizational factors were associated with nosocomial transmissions of CDI and MRSA. Further research is needed to investigate the mechanisms by which these factors are associated.

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Susceptibility results discrepancy analysis between NHSN antimicrobial resistance (AR) Option and NEDSS Base System in Tennessee, July 2020–December 2021

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Background: The NHSN Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Option is an important avenue for acute-care hospitals to electronically report facility-wide antibiogram data. The NEDSS Base System (NBS) is the statewide surveillance system for mandatory reporting of all carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) cases. The state health department (SHD) validated CRE case data reported through the AR Option to assess completeness and accuracy. **Methods:** NHSN AR Option data from July 2020–December 2021 for 24 facilities were validated by comparing reported CRE and susceptibility results to CRE isolates reported via the NBS. Isolates were matched based on specimen date, sex, birth month and day, pathogen, and specimen source. NHSN susceptibility results were dichotomized as “not resistant” and “resistant” to match the NBS results. Susceptibility discordance (differing proportions of resistant isolates) of matched pairs were evaluated using the McNemar exact test in SAS version 9.4 software. **Results:** The SHD identified 270 CRE cases from the NHSN and 1,254 unique CRE isolates from the NBS. Of the NHSN events, 72 (26.67%) were matched to the NBS. Among matched isolates, discordance was significant for doripenem (0 resistant isolates in the NHSN vs 13 in the NBS; $P < .001$) and imipenem (5 resistant isolates in the NHSN vs 23 in the NBS; $P < .0001$). Discordance was not significant for ertapenem nor

meropenem. Sensitivity analyses maximized the match rate at 30.74% (83 matches) when NBS isolates from unknown sources were included and matching factors were specimen date and date of birth ± 1 day, and pathogen. Among all 6,325 CRE isolates in NBS, 290 (4.58%) did not have a specimen source provided. Of all 47,348 NHSN events, 7,624 (16.10%) had impossible patient birthdays. **Conclusions:** Many NHSN isolates could not be matched to NBS due to either isolates being missing from NBS or to data differences across the systems. This mismatch highlights the need for data validation and standardization at the point of entry for both systems. Discordant susceptibility outcomes raise concerns about using the NHSN as a method for facility and regional antibiogram data.

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Uncovering gut microbiota-mediated indirect effects of antibiotic use on *Clostridioides difficile* transmission

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Background: *Clostridioides difficile* and multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) pose challenges due to treatment complexities and substantial morbidity and mortality. Susceptibility to colonization with these organisms and potential onward transmission if colonized (ie, infectivity) is influenced by the human microbiome and its dynamics. Disruptive effects of antibiotics on the microbiome imply potential indirect effects of antibiotics on *C. difficile* colonization. Mathematical models can help explore the relative impact of key pathways linking antibiotic use to *C. difficile* colonization, including the relationship between population-level antibiotic use and colonization prevalence. **Methods:** We built a compartmental model of long-term *C. difficile* colonization prevalence of nursing home residents (though malleable for any MDRO), allowing interactions

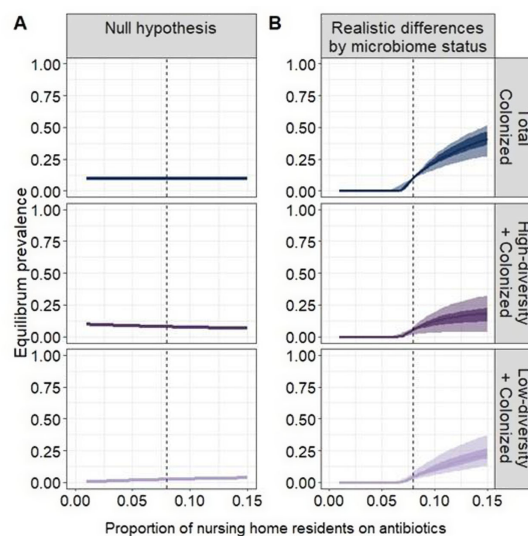


Figure 1. The relationship between population-level antibiotic use and long-term (equilibrium) prevalence of colonized individuals (total or separated by low or high microbiome diversity) differed if the model was parameterized to a “null hypothesis” (A) with no different processes by microbiome diversity group compared to a more realistic parameterization (B) where infectivity, susceptibility, and clearance of the pathogen could vary depending on the microbiome status. The population-level antibiotic use (x-axis) is the proportion of nursing home residents receiving antibiotics on a given day. In the realistic parameterization (B), the average rate at which an individual’s microbiome recovers its high diversity (i.e., recovery from antibiotic disruption) could vary for uncolonized vs colonized individuals. For each parameter in the realistic parameterization, values were sampled from ranges derived from the literature and based on nursing home resident populations as much as possible. The transmission rate was fit such that each parameter combination had 10% of the total population colonized at equilibrium. The vertical dashed line at 0.08 on the x-axis marks the baseline amount of population-level antibiotic use. In (B), the lighter shaded regions show 95% confidence intervals, darker shaded regions show 50% confidence intervals, and colored lines show median values.