

About Healthcare-associated Infections

[Healthcare-associated Infections \(HAI\)](#) are infections that people can get while receiving services at a healthcare facility. Bacteria, viruses and fungi can be passed from patient, healthcare provider to surfaces and back. Hospitals can reduce the risk of HAIs by taking steps developed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#).

When using these reports, it helps to understand the [Standardized Infection Ratio](#). SIR is a statistic used to track healthcare-associated infection prevention progress over time. The SIR is adjusted to account for factors that might cause infection rates to be higher or lower, such as hospital size, the type of patients a hospital serves, surgery types and patient characteristics.

Some known healthcare-associated infections are:

[Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection \(CLABSI\)](#) - a serious infection that occurs when germs (usually bacteria or viruses) enter the bloodstream through the central line. CLABSIs result in thousands of deaths each year and billions of dollars in added costs to the U.S. healthcare system, yet these infections are preventable.

[Clostridioides difficile \(C. Diff\)](#) - a bacterium that causes diarrhea and colitis (an inflammation of the colon). C. Diff causes almost half a million illnesses in the United States each year.

[Surgical Site Infections \(SSI\)](#) - an infection that occurs after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place. It can be a superficial infection or more serious and can involve tissues under the skin, organs, or implanted material.

To Learn More about Infection Reporting, Visit the Following Websites.

- CMS Hospital Compare Healthcare-associated Infections <https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/Data/Healthcare-Associated-Infections.html>
- CMS Hospital Compare Measures and Current Data Collection Periods <https://www.medicare.gov/HospitalCompare/data/Data-Updated.html#MG14>
- CDC – Tracking Infections in Acute Care Hospitals/Facilities <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/index.html>
- QualityNet – Healthcare-associated Infection page <http://qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228760487021>

Infections Acquired in Hospitals:
Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI)

Hospital Name	No. of Infections Reported	Central Line Days	Predicted Number of Infections	SIR
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	0	412	0.239	n/a ¹³
Central Vermont Medical Center	0	890	0.605	n/a ¹³
Copley Hospital	0	236	0.065	n/a ¹³
Gifford Medical Center	0	288	0.079	n/a ¹³
Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital	0	289	0.079	n/a ¹³
Mt. Ascutney Hospital	0	757	0.206	n/a ¹³
North Country Hospital	0	95	0.025	n/a ¹³
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	0	530	0.144	n/a ¹³
Northwestern Medical Center	0	364	0.212	n/a ¹³
Porter Hospital	0	153	0.041	n/a ¹³
Rutland Regional Medical Center	1	2294	1.576	0.635
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	0	1340	0.952	n/a ¹³
Springfield Hospital	0	141	0.038	n/a ¹³
University of Vermont Medical Center	7	14264	15.101	0.464

- SIR **cannot be calculated** for the following hospitals because their predicted number of infections was less than one: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Copley Hospital, Gifford Medical Center, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, Porter Hospital, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and Springfield Hospital.
- Rutland Regional Medical Center was rated **no different** than the national benchmark.
- University of Vermont Medical Center was rated **better** than the national benchmark.

Infections Acquired in Hospitals:
[Clostridioides difficile \(C. diff\)](#)

Hospital Name	No. of Infections Reported	No. of Patient Days	Predicted Number of Infections	SIR
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	3	5769	1.627	1.844
Central Vermont Medical Center	12	13767	9.636	1.245
Copley Hospital	1	4271	0.943	n/a ¹³
Gifford Medical Center	6	4877	1.956	3.067
Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital	0	4134	1.415	0
Mt. Ascutney Hospital	1	6622	1.462	0.684
North Country Hospital	2	5019	1.982	1.009
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	4	7322	3.028	1.321
Northwestern Medical Center	0	9147	3.684	0
Porter Hospital	1	5556	2.523	0.396
Rutland Regional Medical Center	8	34308	22.029	0.363
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	3	13411	8.276	0.362
Springfield Hospital	1	5354	2.431	0.411
University of Vermont Medical Center	61	107608	76.371	0.799

- Copley Hospital's SIR **cannot not be calculated** because its predicted number of infections is less than one.
- Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Grace Cottage Hospital, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Porter Hospital, Springfield Hospital, and University of Vermont Medical Center were rated **no different** than the national benchmark.
- Gifford Medical Center was rated **worse** than the national benchmark.
- Northwestern Medical Center, Rutland Regional Medical Center and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center were rated **better** than the national benchmark.

Infections Acquired in Hospitals:
Surgical Site Infection - Knee Replacement Surgery

Hospital Name	No. of Infections	No. of Procedures	SIR
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	0	119	n/a
Central Vermont Medical Center	0	94	n/a
Copley Hospital	0	199	n/a
Gifford Medical Center	0	28	n/a
Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital	0	26	n/a
Mt. Ascutney Hospital	0	82	n/a
North Country Hospital	0	20	n/a
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	0	82	n/a
Northwestern Medical Center	0	20	n/a
Porter Hospital	0	83	n/a
Rutland Regional Medical Center	1	410	0.898
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	3	112	n/a
Springfield Hospital	0	45	n/a
University of Vermont Medical Center	5	364	3.235

- **Too few surgeries** were performed to calculate a reliable SIR for the following hospitals: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Copley Hospital, Gifford Medical Center, Grace Cottage Hospital, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, Porter Hospital, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and Springfield Hospital.
- Rutland Regional Medical Center was rated **no different** than the national benchmark.
- University of Vermont Medical Center was rated **worse** than the national benchmark.
- SSI: Knee surgery is updated annually in this report. Data source: NHSN, via VPQHC. Reporting period: 10/1/2017-9/30/2018.

Infections Acquired in Hospitals:
Surgical Site Infection - Hip Replacement Surgery

Hospital Name	No. of Infections	No. of Procedures	SIR
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	0	51	n/a
Central Vermont Medical Center	1	70	n/a
Copley Hospital	0	70	n/a
Gifford Medical Center	0	18	n/a
North Country Hospital	0	11	n/a
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	0	52	n/a
Northwestern Medical Center	0	86	n/a
Porter Hospital	0	79	n/a
Rutland Regional Medical Center	0	304	0
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	0	79	n/a
Springfield Hospital	0	20	n/a
University of Vermont Medical Center	2	394	0.637

- **Too few surgeries** were performed to calculate a reliable SIR for the following hospitals: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Copley Hospital, Gifford Medical Center, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, Porter Hospital, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and Springfield Hospital.
- Rutland Regional Medical Center and University of Vermont Medical Center were rated **no different** than the national benchmark.
- Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital and Mt. Ascutney Hospital do not have data because they **do not perform** this surgery.
- SSI: Hip surgery is updated annually in this report. Data source: NHSN, via VPQHC. Reporting period: 10/1/2017-9/30/2018.

Infections Acquired in Hospitals:
Surgical Site Infection – Hysterectomy

Hospital Name	No. of Infections	No. of Procedures	Predicted Number of Infections	SIR
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	0	18	0.146	n/a ¹³
Central Vermont Medical Center	0	17	0.128	n/a ¹³
Copley Hospital	0	1	0.006	n/a ¹³
Gifford Medical Center	0	14	0.125	n/a ^{3, 13}
Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵
Mt. Ascutney Hospital	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵	n/a ⁵
North Country Hospital	0	35	0.319	n/a ^{3, 13}
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	0	5	0.039	n/a ¹³
Northwestern Medical Center	0	4	0.033	n/a ¹³
Porter Hospital	0	10	0.06	n/a ¹³
Rutland Regional Medical Center	0	57	0.576	n/a ¹³
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	0	17	0.149	n/a ¹³
Springfield Hospital	0	1	0.006	n/a ¹³
University of Vermont Medical Center	1	311	2.38	0.42

- Results are **not available** for this reporting period for Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital and Mt. Ascutney Hospital.
- This measure **does not apply** to Copley Hospital for this reporting period.
- SIR **cannot be calculated** for the following hospitals because their predicted number of infections was less than one: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Gifford Medical Center, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, Porter Hospital, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and Springfield Hospital.
- University of Vermont Medical Center was rated **no different** than the national benchmark.