



Hôpital **Montfort** Hospital

Why are the rates different depending on the hospital?

Many factors can affect the infection rate, including hospital size, kind of patient seen, the treatments given and the presence of an outbreak.

- **Hospital size:** In small hospitals, a single case of infection can greatly increase the infection rate. For example, if hospital A with 100 beds was completely full for 30 days in a month, there would be 3,000 patient days for the month. If hospital B is much bigger with 500 beds and was completely full for the same month, there would be 15,000 patient days.
 - If hospital A has 1 case of *C. difficile* during the month, its rate would be $0.33 / 1,000$ patient days. ($1 \div 3,000 \times 1,000$)
 - If hospital B also has 1 case of *C. difficile* during the month, its rate would be $0.07 / 1,000$ patient days. ($1 \div 15,000 \times 1,000$)

Therefore, hospital size is an important factor when comparing infection rates from one hospital to another.

- **Kinds of patients seen:** Some patients are more vulnerable than others to certain infections. Patients who have immune system problems or who are older are generally more at risk.
- **Treatments given:** cancer treatments (chemotherapy, radiotherapy), some surgeries or drugs (antibiotics) increase the risk of developing an infection.

Hospitals that regularly see these kinds of patients and that administer these treatments could report a higher infection rate.

- **The presence of an outbreak:** If a hospital has an outbreak, its monthly rate will be higher. As soon as an outbreak is identified, the hospital will implement very strict measures to ensure that the outbreak is stopped as quickly as possible. Once things are back to normal, the rate too will return to a normal level.