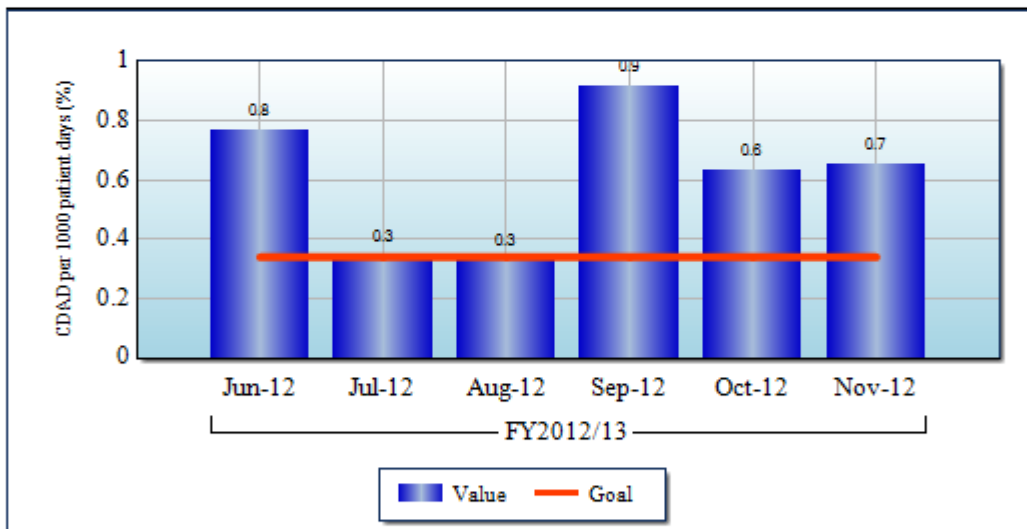


***C. difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)**

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



November 2012 CVH Data:

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.65
Total Cases	8

Interpretation:

For the month of November, the rate of healthcare associated *C. difficile* increased by 3.2% (0.63 to 0.65 cases per 1000 patient days). We are still above our internal benchmark target of 0.34 cases per 1000 patient days. During this time, in consultation with the Region of Peel Public Health department, a unit-specific outbreak related to *C. difficile* infection was declared on 2B as a result of 3 cases of healthcare associated *C. difficile* identified within a 7 day period. We implemented heightened surveillance, proper hand hygiene practices, enhanced cleaning procedures in affected patient care areas, 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.