

**What Did the Romans Ever Do For Us?**  
**Dr. Carole Fry, Public Health England**  
**Broadcast live from the 2015 Infection Prevention Society conference**



**What did the Romans  
ever do for us?**

*Or do we learn from history?*

Carole Fry  
EM Cottrell lecture 2015

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September 28, 2015



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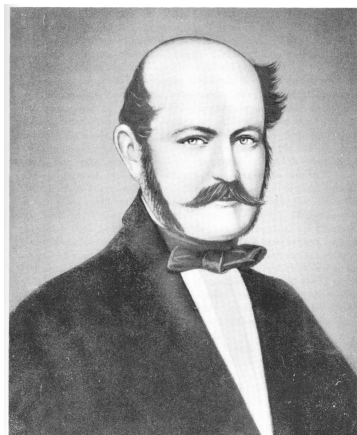
Lets go back to the very beginning....



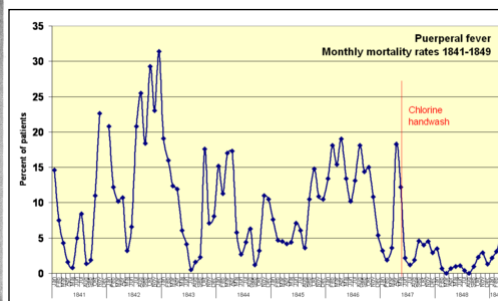
....as it is a very good place to start



## Semmelweis (1818 – 65)



*Ignaz Semmelweis*



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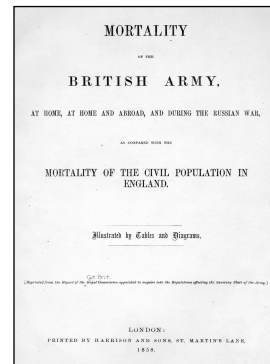
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● ● ● | **Florence Nightingale**

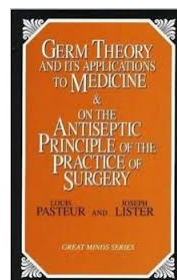
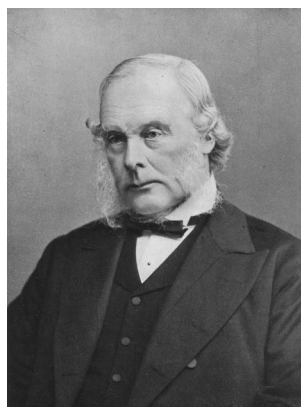


“The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.”

— [Florence Nightingale, \*Notes on Nursing: What It Is, and What It Is Not\*](#)



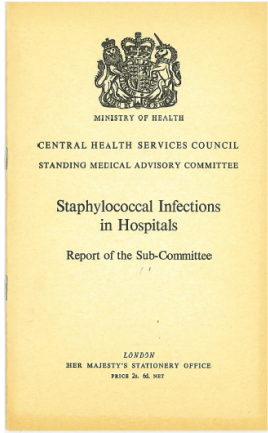
● ● ● | **Joseph Lister (1827- 1912)**



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● ● ● | Infection control beginnings



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
CENTRAL HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL  
STANDING MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Staphylococcal Infections  
in Hospitals  
Report of the Sub-Committee  
LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
PRICE 2s. 6d. NET

- In 1944, MRC recommended establishing an ICC in every hospital
- Published in 1959 – concern about Staphylococcal sepsis
- Also concerns about penicillin resistance
- Recommended the appointment of an Control of Infection Officer “the success of any scheme of control will depend on **him**”

● ● ● | EM Cottrell

- Theatre superintendant appointed by Dr Brendan Moore in 1959
- To act as a liaison officer to all those concerned with control of infection – record keeping a major part of the role
- Lancet paper stated that the appointment was a ‘successful experiment’
- Met resistance in some quarters, but soon other hospitals followed suit

Gardner *et al.* The Infection Control Sister – a new member of the infection control team in general hospitals.  
Lancet 1962;2:710-711

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● ● ● | **What goes around comes around?**

- Role of the environment/ fomites
- AMR/AMS
- Adequate staffing
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring & measuring
- Ventilation
- Hand hygiene
- Mattress cleaning
- Bed spacing
- Epidemiological investigation
- Cohorting
- Good communication and liaison
- New builds not less than 20% single rooms
- Outbreak management & control
- Good documentation & record keeping
- Avoid unnecessary dressing changes...



● ● ● | **One microbiologist's view**

- When reviewing 'Hospital-acquired infection – Ayliffe, Collins & Taylor (1982)

microbiology laboratory and the nursing administration, to whom alone she is officially responsible. One of the recurrent nightmares of consultant microbiologists must be a sudden outbreak of embarrassing contradictions and confusion in the wards owing to an inexperienced or incautious control of infection nurse. Even without a specific chapter on the prevention of this new hospital hazard, however, its incidence will be greatly diminished by the assiduous use of this sensible little book.

Selywn. S Hard Facts about hospital infection.  
BMJ 1982;284: 1895 - 1896

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## Information sources

Journal of Hospital Infection (1991) 18 (Supplement A), 5-64

OPENING LECTURE

Hospital infection: the first 2500 years

Sydney Selwyn

*Department of Medical Microbiology, Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, London W1P 8LP, UK*

**Introduction**

The subject of hospital-acquired infection will excite a historian. His task is considerable for it must encompass more than 4000 years of man's social history and deal with the numerous institutions that were the forerunners of the modern hospital. Although our story therefore extends back much further than 2500 years, it can conveniently begin in the 6th century B.C., for which there are adequate archaeological and other sources of information.

Our theme is encapsulated by the epigram: "The best requirement of a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm". This is a paraphrase of the favourite dictum of Florence Nightingale—and Sir James Spence before her. It is of course a specific version of the Latin tag *primum non nocere* (first of all do no harm)\*. Paradoxically, this fundamental requirement was more often fulfilled in the ancient and oriental world than in more recent times in the West.

**The hygienic standards of early hospitals**

By the year 500 B.C. organized hospitals for the care of the sick existed throughout the civilized world, and notably in India, Egypt, Palestine and Greece. The hygienic conditions which prevailed were mainly based on religious concepts of ritual purity, and seem to have been greatly superior to those that were tolerated less than 100 years ago in the hospitals of Christian Europe.

The earliest available advice on hospital construction and hygiene is contained in the *Charaka-Samhita*, a Sanskrit textbook of medicine which

\* This, in turn, is a Latin translation of part of a Greek aphorism of Hippocrates, the 'Father of Medicine'.

© 1991 The Hospital Infection Society

20,000 ARE INFECTED . . . AND IT'S GETTING WORSE

## Britain threatened by gay virus plague

By BARBARA JONES, Medical Correspondent

THE killer AIDS virus is now spreading at the rate of about 100 cases a day in London alone.


Doctors estimate that as many as 20,000 people are already infected and will be carriers for life, although only a small

Killer blood tests ordered at donor centres

New curb on AIDS peril

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## Watershed moment in IC

**Recommendations for Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health-Care Settings**  
MMWR August 21, 1987 / 36(SU02);001  
published by the Epidemiology Program Office, Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

→ Blood and body fluid precautions

**Perspectives in Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Update: **Universal Precautions** for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus, and Other Bloodborne Pathogens in Health-Care Settings** June 24, 1988 / 37(24);377-388



## Aim of UP

- To protect HCWs from acquiring a blood borne virus – discovery of HIV was the catalyst for this
- 1988 – all body and body fluids containing visible blood, mucous membranes & non-intact skin to be considered a potential risk regardless of their infection status
- Historically IC precautions dictated by symptoms or confirmed diagnosis

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## Development of UP

- Lynch & Jackson expanded UP to include all moist body substances – faeces, urine, sputum – greater protection for HCWs
- Over time, UP and BSI merged into standard precautions.
- Realisation, if implemented well, SP prevent cross infection and therefore protect patients also.



## Standard Principles in England

- Epic 1 introduced standard principles for preventing hospital acquired infections which went beyond clinical practice
- Also adopted the term standard precautions
- Environment
- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate use of PPE
- Safe use of sharps

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## Evidence base?

- SP7 Use an alcohol-based hand rub for decontamination of hands before and after direct patient contact and clinical care, except in the following situations when soap and water must be used:
- when hands are visibly soiled or potentially contaminated with body fluids; and
  - when caring for patients with vomiting or diarrhoeal illness, regardless of whether or not gloves have been worn.

*Class A*

### **epic3: National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England**

H.P. Loveday<sup>a\*</sup>, J.A. Wilson<sup>a</sup>, R.J. Pratt<sup>a</sup>, M. Golsorkhi<sup>a</sup>, A. Tingle<sup>a</sup>, A. Bak<sup>a</sup>, J. Browne<sup>a</sup>, J. Prieto<sup>b</sup>, M. Wilcox<sup>c</sup>



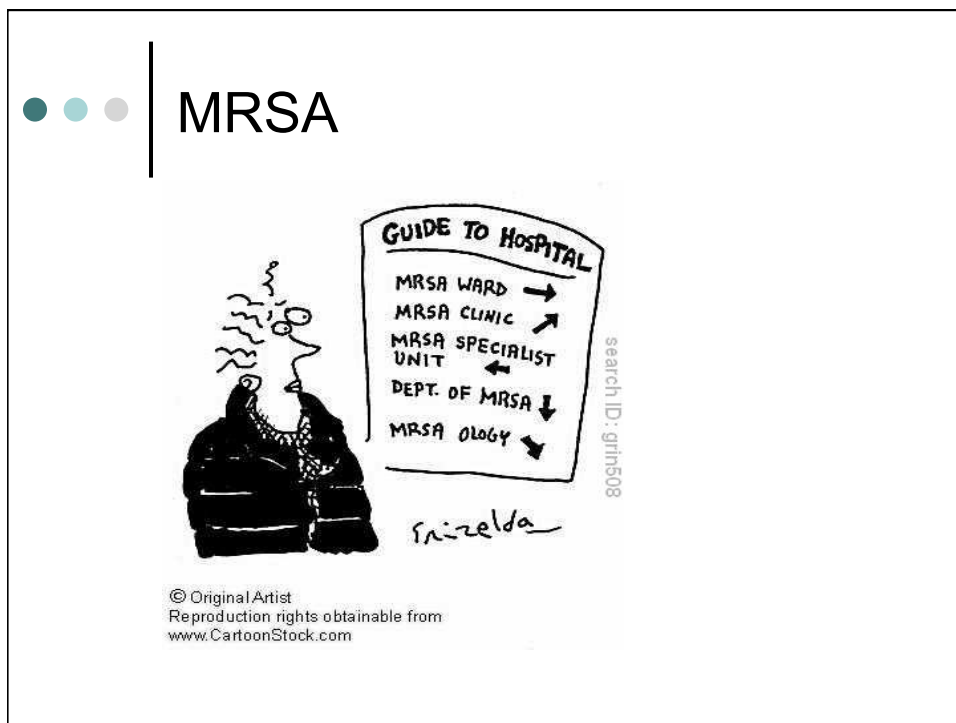
## It's getting complicated

CDC now recommend:

- standard precautions
- transmission based precautions
  - contact precautions – wear gown & gloves (+/- isolation) patients with diarrhoea, MDRO, draining wounds, uncontrolled secretions, pressure ulcer (~15% US inpatients)
  - droplet precautions
  - airborne precautions

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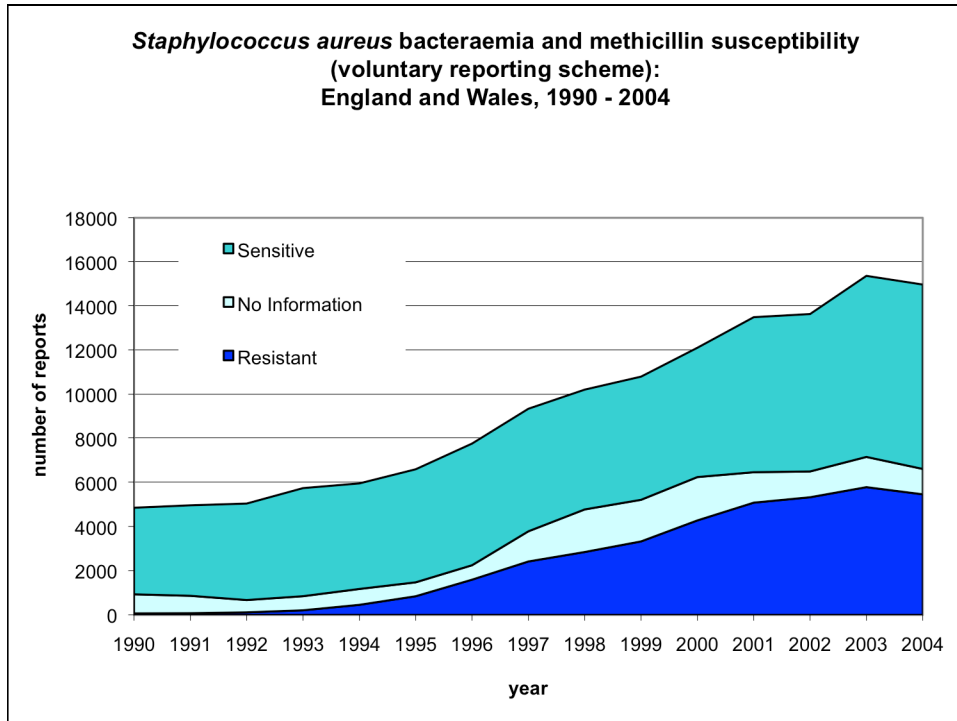
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● ● ● | **MRSA Target**

- Announcement in November 2004 to 'halve MRSA infections by 2008'
- Baseline 2003-04; Start date April 2005
  - Monthly returns
- Performance management
- MRSA objectives followed – aimed at outliers

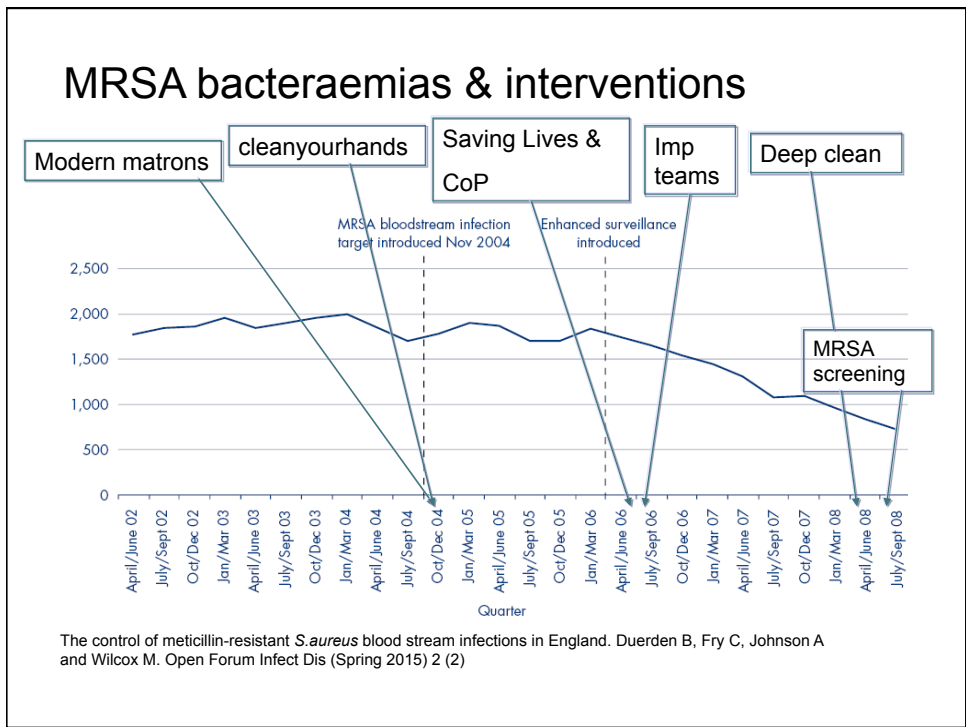
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## Achievable?

- Surveyed ICTS believed on average that 15% reduction in HAI was achievable (NAO 2000)
- First national infection reduction target

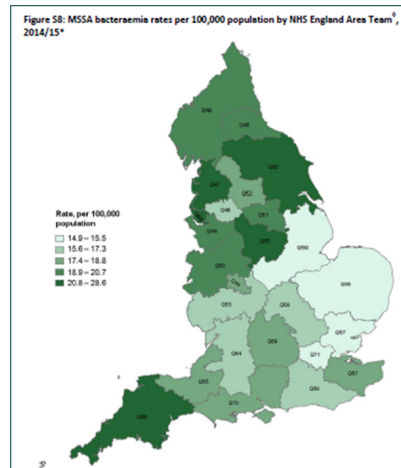
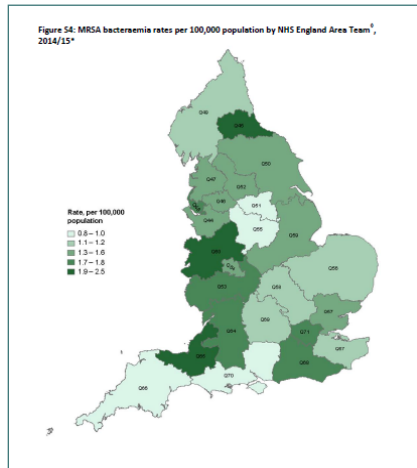


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## MRSA vs MSSA



Source: PHE annual commentary 2014/15

## Time to onset bacteraemia

Figure 53: Time to onset among inpatients with MRSA bacteraemia, 2007/08 - 2014/15

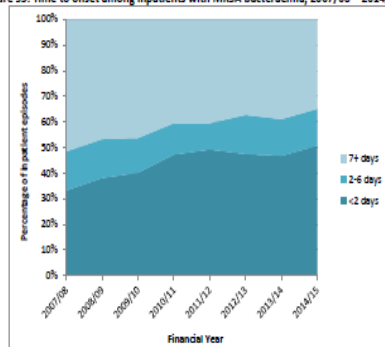
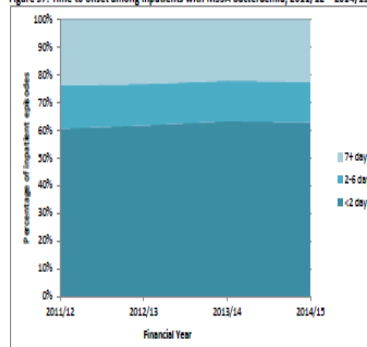


Figure 57: Time to onset among inpatients with MSSA bacteraemia, 2011/12 - 2014/15



Source: PHE annual commentary 2014/15

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## *Staphylococcus aureus* – the next challenge?

- Report of meticillin susceptible, vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Conclusion 'Emergence of vancomycin resistance in MSSA would indicate that this resistance trait might be poised to disseminate rapidly among *S.aureus* and represents a major public health threat'.

Panesso D *et al.* EID. Vol 21: 10: October 2015



## Surveillance

'When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it.'



Lord Kelvin, Popular Lectures and Addresses, 1889

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## Surveillance in the UK

*Journal of Hospital Infection* (1989) 1, 3-4

**LEADING ARTICLE**

**Surveying infection in hospitals**

The quality of the care given to patients in the National Health Service is being directly affected by rising costs, and cuts in public spending. This could and should be countered by reducing unnecessary activity and waste. For example, the present preoccupation with health and safety at work has coincided with the delivery of ill-considered advice designed to prevent cross infection in the NHS from infection. Raising such an hypothesis, bolstered by anecdote and data from remote...

its prevention. It is embarrassing to admit, in the first issue, that we have no idea of the size and shape of infection in hospitals in the United Kingdom. Action aimed at controlling hospital acquired infection cannot be well-founded in the absence of credible figures for its frequency.

To derive this information, a national prevalence survey of hospital infection is

## ...while in the US - SENIC

American Journal of Epidemiology

**THE EFFECT OF INFECTION SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAMS IN PREVENTING NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS IN HOSPITALS**

ROBERT W. HALPERIN, DAVID H. CLEVELAND, JOHN W. WATERS, W. MARGIE WORTHEN, T. GRACE ENGLISH, PAUL P. MCDONNELL, AND THOMAS R. HOODDON\*

... 1974, an estimated 2.1 million nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections complicated the 37.7 million admissions to 3976 acute-care hospitals in the United States...

- Initiated by CDC in 1974
- 6586 hospitals
- HAI rates could be reduced with an effective IC programme (↓32%) and 1 ICN: 250 beds
- Hospitals without an effective programme HAI rates ↑

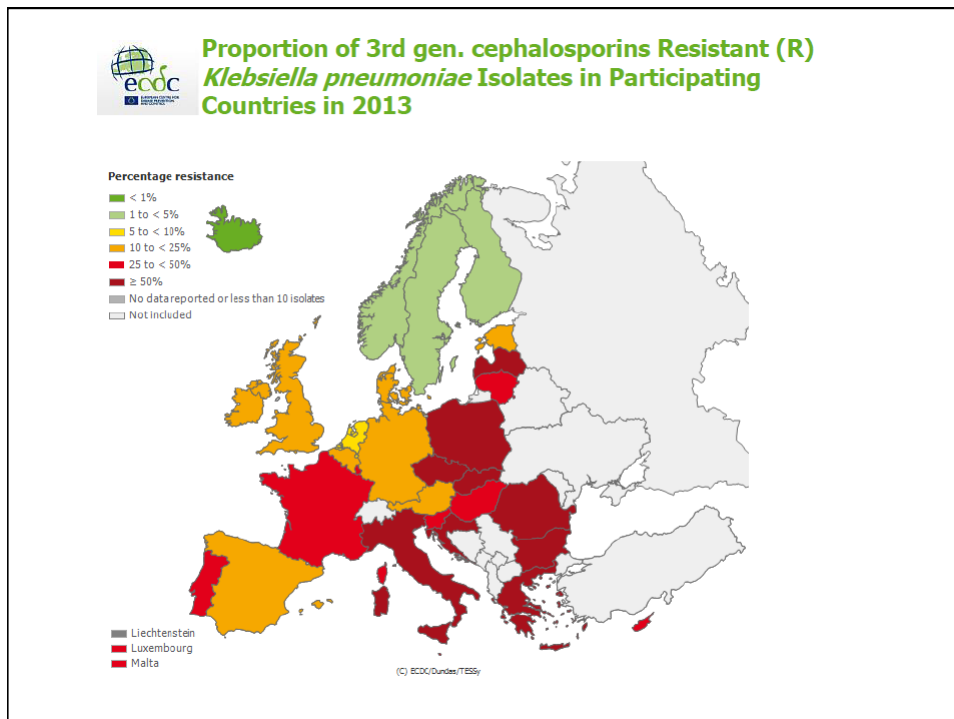
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## HCAI prevalence

- 6 % of patients in Acute Hospitals had a HCAI in 2011
- Estimated 243,746 patients per year
- Prevalence of HCAI decreasing; in 2006 prevalence was 8.2%
- Pneumonia/Lower respiratory tract, Urinary tract infections & Surgical site infections account for c. 60% of all HCAI
- Top three HCAI pathogens: *E. coli* 17%, *S. aureus* 15%, & *C. difficile* 12.4%
- Next PPS: 2016

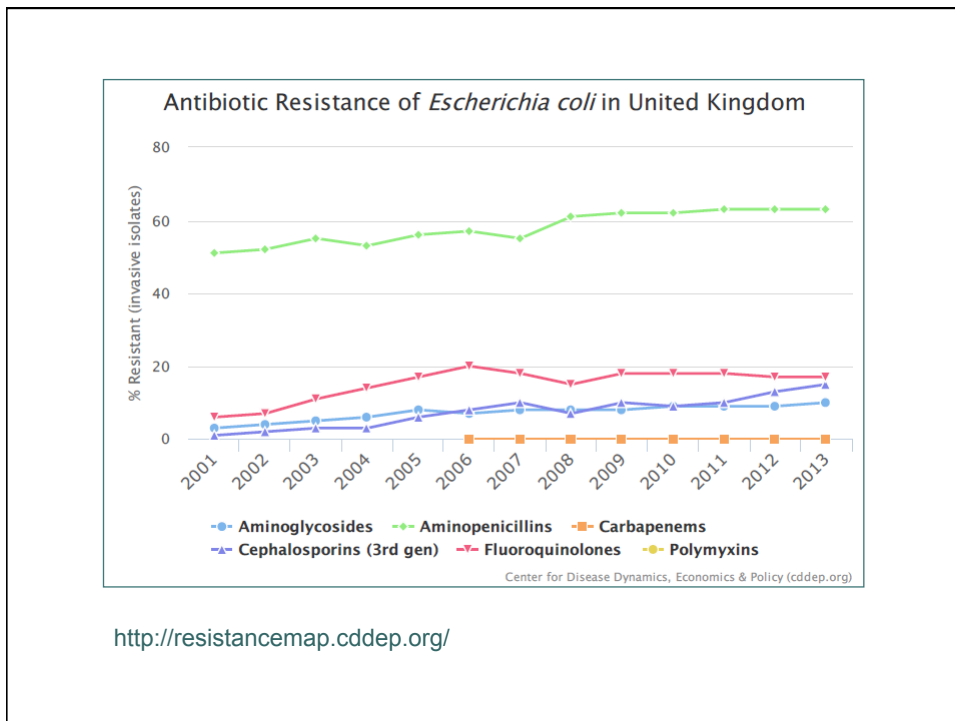
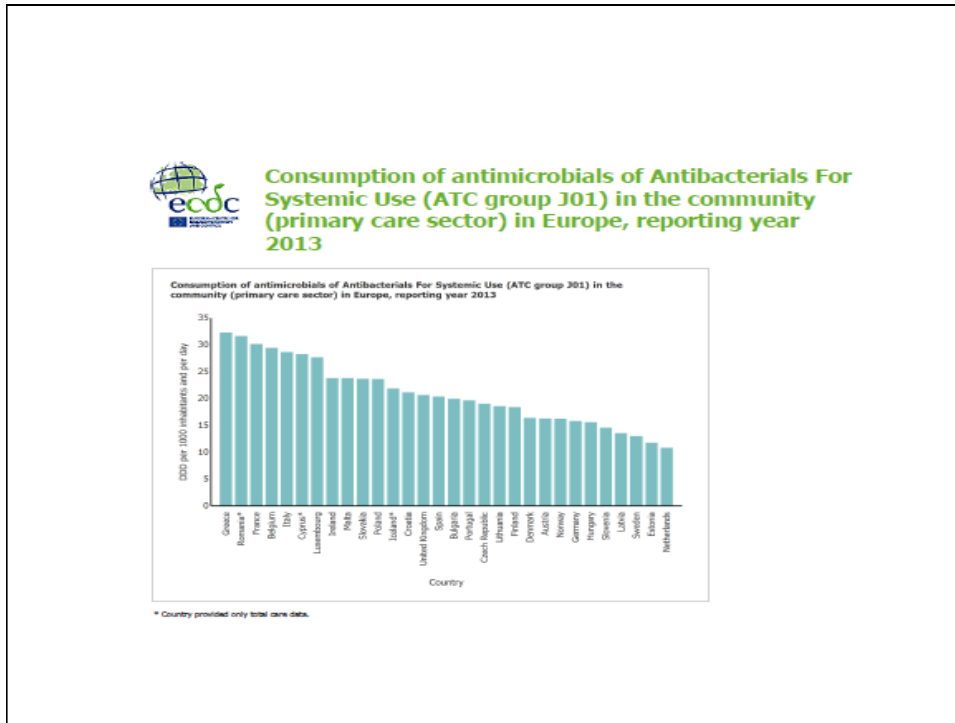
Country	Approximate Prevalence (%)
Portugal	11
Scotland	10
Denmark*	10
Greece	10
Spain	10
Norway*	10
Finland	10
Netherlands	10
Sweden*	10
Belgium	10
Cyprus	10
Ireland	10
Slovenia	10
Italy	10
Austria*	10
UK-England	10
Croatia*	10
Estonia*	10
Luxembourg	10
France	10
UK-Scotland	10
Czech RepubliC*	10
Hungary	10
Poland	10
UK-N. Ireland	10
UK-Wales	10
Bulgaria	10
Slovenia	10
Lithuania	10
Romania*	10
Latvia	10



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● ● ● | **Data – we've got lots**

Public Health England  
Protecting and improving the nation's health

English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance (ESPAUR)  
Report 2014

Public Health England  
Protecting and improving the nation's health

Annual Epidemiological Commentary:  
Mandatory MRSA, MSSA and *E. coli* bacteraemia and *C. difficile* infection data, 2014/15  
9 July 2015

Public Health England  
Protecting and improving the nation's health

Surveillance of Surgical Site Infections in NHS Hospitals in England  
2013/14

● ● ● | **Public reporting of HCAI**

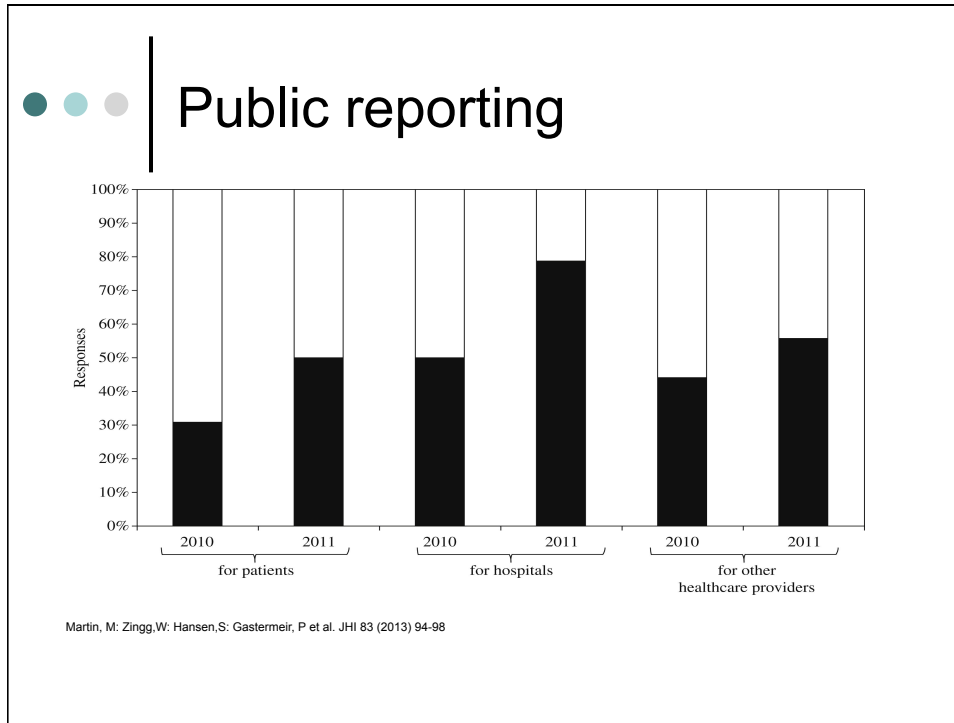
- MRSA bacteraemias - followed by
  - Orthopaedic SS1
  - Glycopeptide resistant enterococci
  - *Clostridium difficile* infection
  - meticillin sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*
  - E.coli bacteraemias

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### Do these data inform the public?

Organisation information	Care Quality Commission inspection ratings	A&E performance	Mortality rate	Recommended by staff	Infection control and cleanliness	Percentage of patients waiting less than 16 weeks	Friends and Family Test - patient
<b>Frimley Park Hospital</b> Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 7UJ Tel: 01276 604004	Outstanding Visit CQC profile	94.5% Patients seen within 4 hours	OK As expected in hospital and up to 30 days after discharge (0.9311)	Among the best with a value of 92%	Among the best	97% 94.0% of patients waiting less than 16 weeks from referral	Patients recommend the hospital 100% responses
<b>Salford Royal</b> Salford Royal, 102F Lane, Salford, M6 6HD Tel: 0161 759 7373	Outstanding Visit CQC profile	94.8% Patients seen within 4 hours	OK As expected in hospital and up to 30 days after discharge (0.9852)	Among the best with a value of 87%	As expected	94% 95.30% of patients waiting less than 16 weeks from referral	Patients recommend the hospital 95% responses
<b>Clifton Hospital</b> Penkese Road, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, FY19 1YB Tel: 01253 306204	Good Visit CQC profile	95.5% Patients seen within 4 hours	Warning Worse than expected in hospital and up to 30 days after discharge (1.1827)	OK Within expected range with a value of 62%	Among the best	95.30% of patients waiting less than 16 weeks from referral	Data not available

Source: NHS Choices

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## Public reporting

- Difficult for the public to interpret
- Public are consumers
- Risk of hospital league tables
- Currently a blunt instrument
- No strong evidence that public reporting improves patient safety

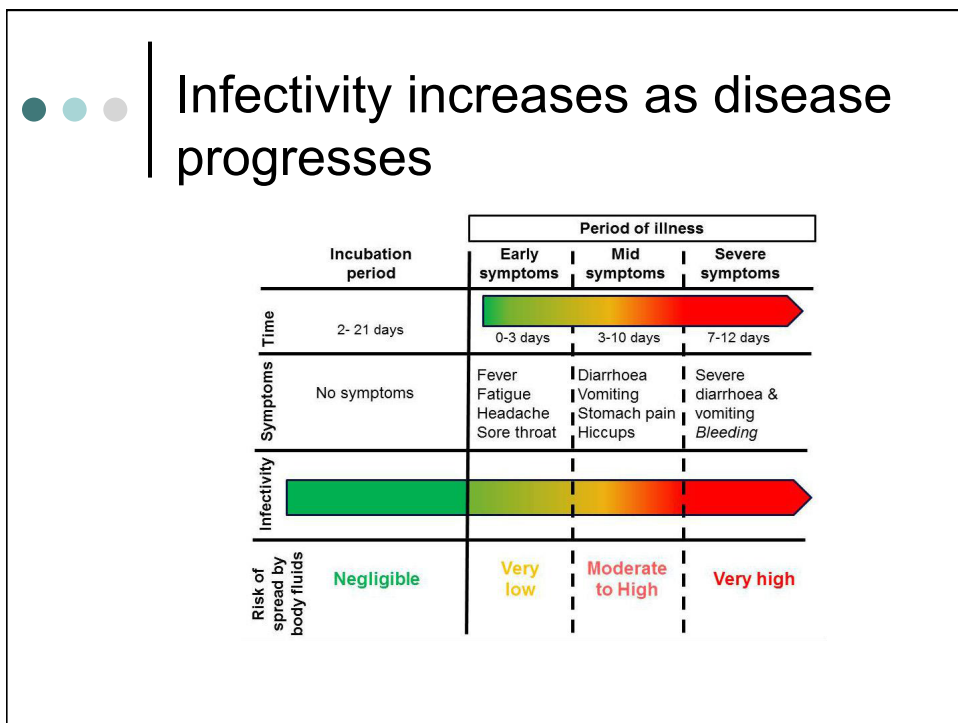


## Public reporting of data

- Transparency important
- Risk of skewed reporting/data to avoid sanctions
- Need to agree granularity of reporting eg: organisation, unit, clinician
- 'Destructive triangulation has arisen between administrators, clinicians & infection control departments that has led to consequences beyond those intended by monitoring agencies'.

Horowitz, HW. Infection control: Public reporting, disincentives & bad behaviour. AJIC 43 (2015) 989 - 91

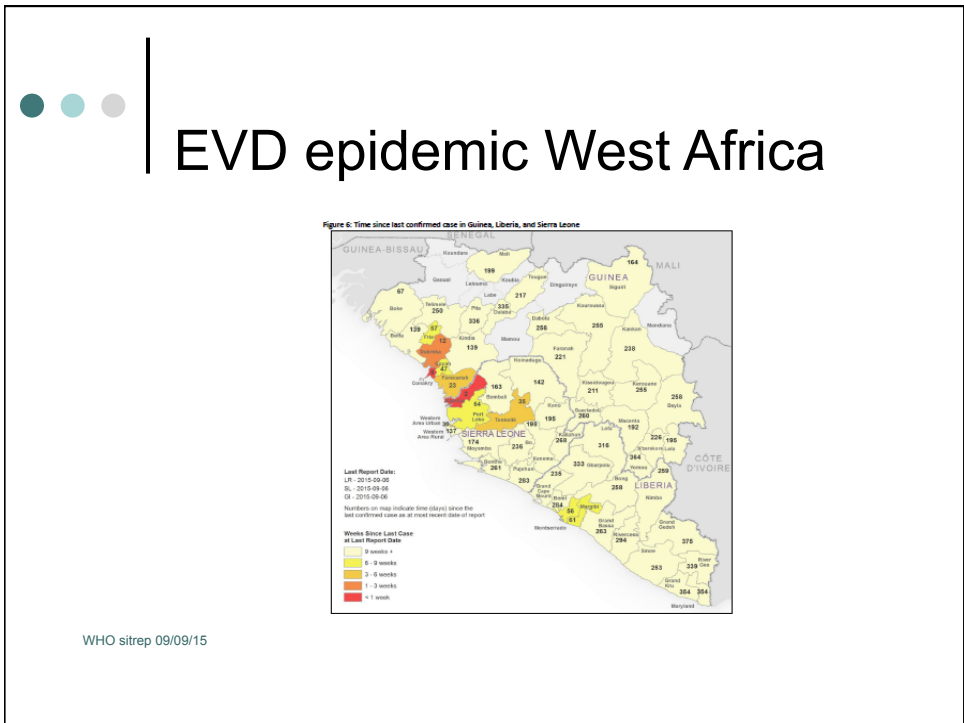
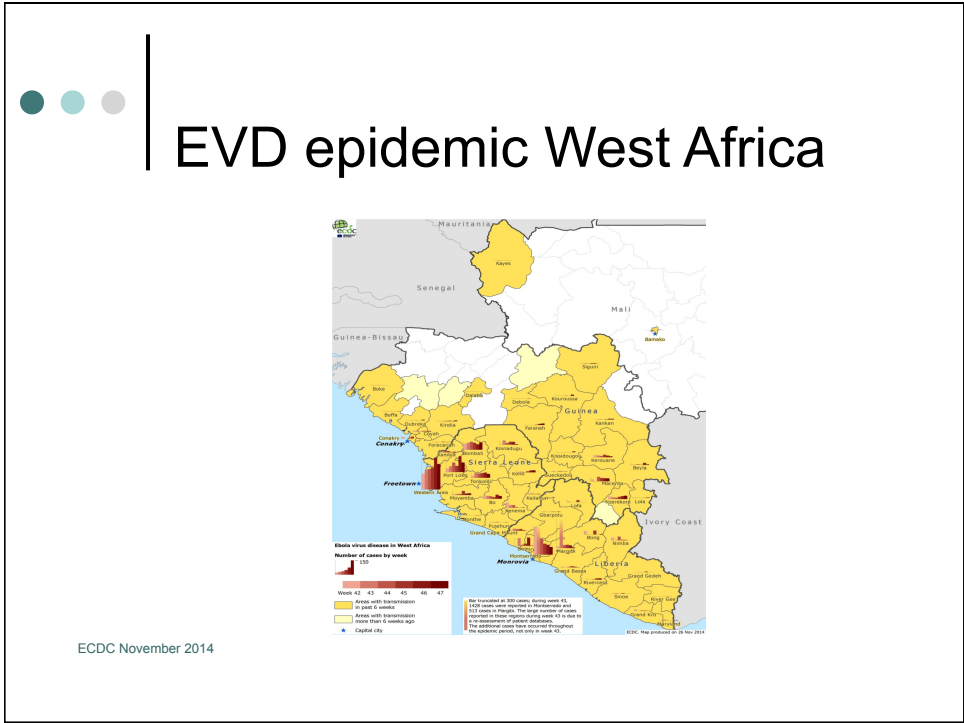
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## Risk to HCWs

- Health-care workers have frequently been infected while treating patients with suspected or confirmed EVD. This has occurred through close contact with patients when infection control precautions are not strictly practiced.

Table 5: Ebola virus disease infections in health workers in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Country	Cases	Deaths
Guinea	196	100
Liberia*	378	192
Sierra Leone	307	221 <sup>†</sup>
Total	881	513



## Prevention of transmission

In the absence of an effective vaccine, rigorous adherence to infection prevention and control practice is required:

- Personal protective equipment
- Hand hygiene
- Spatial separation
- Clean to dirty workflows
- Discipline in donning and doffing
- Training



## Staff safety is paramount

- All clinical activity needs to be planned – healthcare workers should only proceed when it is **safe to do so**, and if they have the appropriate level of training
- Clean to dirty work flows should be maintained



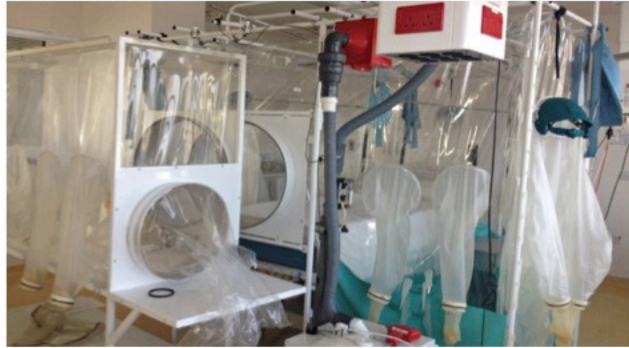
## Staff safety

- The need for clear instructions for putting on and removal of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- PPE buddies must be trained
- Healthcare facilities need to plan in advance how they will manage suspect cases and the staffing implications, eg maximum PPE working times, need for breaks

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## Trexlor isolator

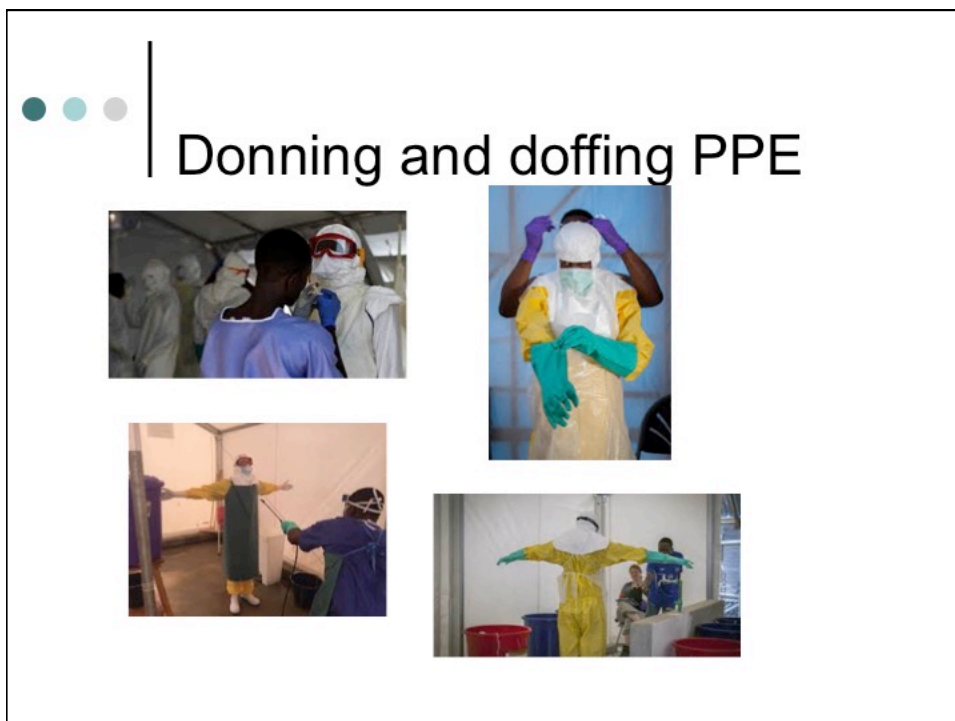


## Patient transport isolator



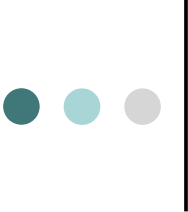
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# Conclusions – what next?



# US approach – aspirational?



## **Moving toward elimination of healthcare-associated infections: A call to action**

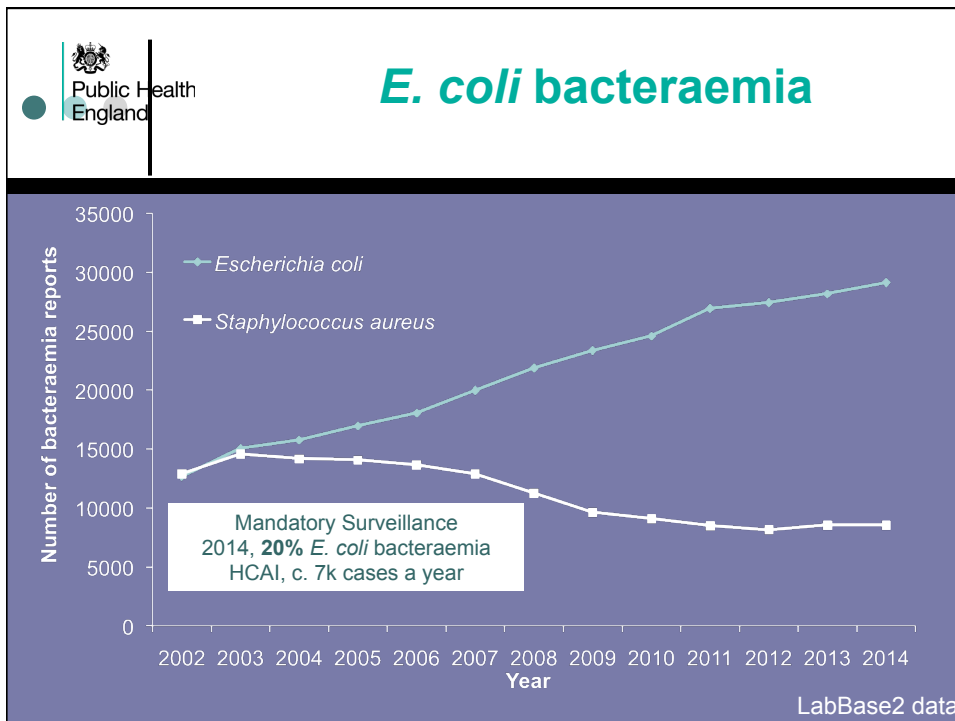
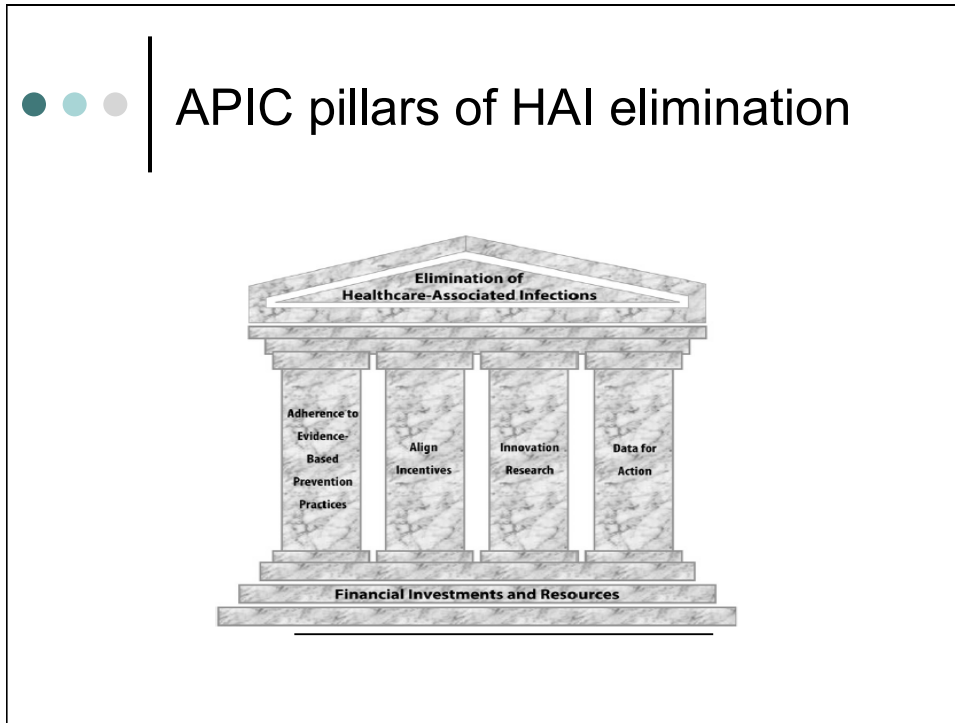
Denise Cardo, MD,<sup>a</sup> Penelope H. Dennehy, MD,<sup>b</sup> Paul Halverson, DrPH, MHSA, FACHE,<sup>c</sup> Neil Fishman, MD,<sup>d</sup> Mel Kohn, MD, MPH,<sup>e</sup> Cathryn L. Murphy, RN, PhD, CIC,<sup>f</sup> Richard J. Whitley, MD, FIDSA,<sup>g</sup> and the HAI Elimination White Paper Writing Group

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## **Conclusions**

- Progress over last 10 years, with dramatic changes
- Changes in HCAI prevalence related to reductions in incidence of MRSA and CDI
- Increasing incidence & prevalence Gram negative resistance
- ICU (all ages) & Surgical specialties - highest risk
- Cognisant of the ever changing health and social care infrastructures



## **Conclusions**

Whilst we have to look to the future,  
we must also learn from the past.

Thank you

**What Did the Romans Ever Do For Us?  
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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) website. At the top left is the IPS logo and the text "Infection Prevention Society". To the right is the website URL "www.ips.uk.net" and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with buttons for Home, Education & Events, Professional Practice, News & Media, Membership, About IPS, Public / Patients, and Contact Us. The main banner features the IPS logo, the text "Infection Prevention Society", and "Infection Prevention 2015 ACC, Liverpool, 28th – 30th September 2015". Below the banner is a section titled "Join IPS and Enjoy Access To ..." with six icons representing different benefits: Networking for Infection Prevention Professionals, IPS Twitter and Infection News Updates, Infection Prevention Best Practice, Influencing, Conference and Seminar Programmes, and FREE Access to the Journal of Infection Prevention. Each icon has a corresponding text box describing the benefit.

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