

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

**Assistant Deputy Minister
Health System Information
Management and Investment
Division**

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

**Sous-ministre adjoint
Division de la gestion de l'information
et de l'investissement pour
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July 29, 2008

Dear Hospital Presidents and Chief Executive Officers:

As you know, section 22.2 of Regulation 965 made under the *Public Hospitals Act* deals with hospitals' disclosure of information concerning certain patient safety indicators through hospital websites. That section's power to request hospital reporting has been delegated to me by the Minister. Therefore, further to that section and Dr. Baker's letter of July 29, 2008, and consistent with the other information that you have received to date, this letter sets out the 2008/09 patient safety reporting requirements for *Clostridium difficile* associated disease (CDAD).

Each Ontario hospital is mandated to report on its hospital website, by September 30, 2008 and by the end of every month thereafter:

- its rate of new nosocomial CDAD for the previous month, and
- its number of new cases for the previous month.

Both the rate and case information will be reported for a defined reporting period (i.e., a calendar month). A schedule of reporting is included in the attached Appendix, which also describes in detail the reporting methodology.

In addition, each Ontario public hospital is mandated to report to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, by September 15, 2008 and by every 15th of the month thereafter, a number of data elements regarding CDAD data collection using the Ministry's Web-Enabled Reporting System (WERS). These data elements include, but are not limited to:

- the number of new CDAD cases associated with the reporting facility (the numerator),
- the number of patient days (the denominator), and
- the calculated CDAD rate.

Both the numerator and the denominator data are to exclude patients less than 1 year of age.

Further details on CDAD case definition, rate calculation and case reporting thresholds are included in the aforementioned Appendix.

As you are aware, public reporting of CDAD information is the first stage in the disclosure of information on a number of other patient safety indicators. As such, you will be informed of public reporting details for the additional indicators in the coming months.

If you have questions or require further clarification on the reporting details, please contact Sten Ardal, Director Health Analytics, at 416-327-6483 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

John McKinley
Assistant Deputy Minister

C: Hon. David Caplan, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Ron Sapsford
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care