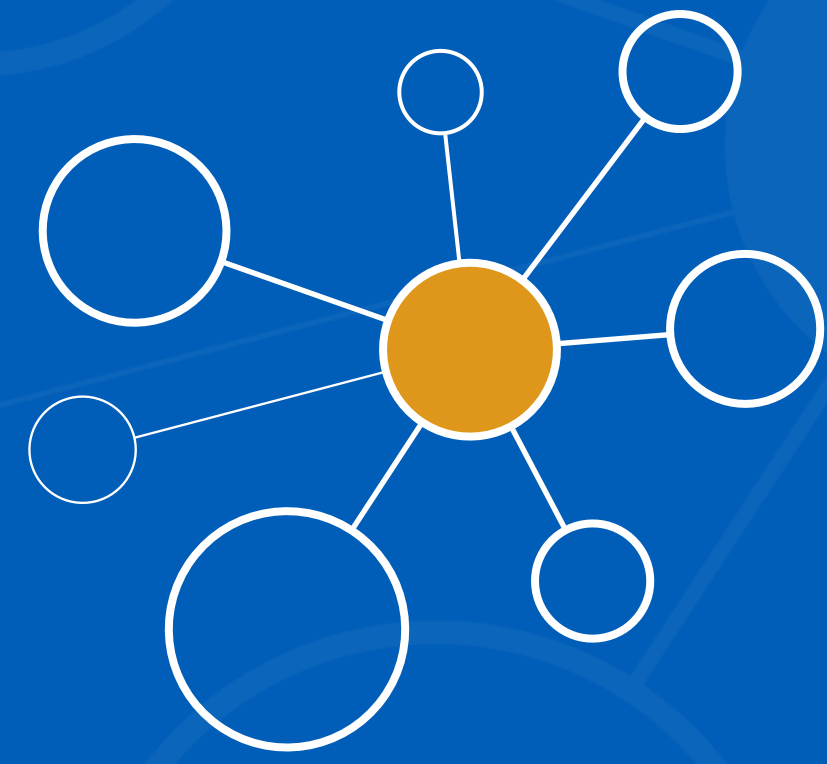




Gloucestershire Safety and Quality Improvement Academy 2026

Reducing hospital-acquired *C. difficile* on Ward 7A

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Gloucestershire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Aim

Reduce hospital-acquired *C. difficile* cases on Ward 7A by **10% within 12 months**.

PDSA Cycles

Hand Hygiene — Weekly audits, immediate feedback, continued monitoring

Equipment Cleaning — Audits of toilets, commodes, bedside tables, mattresses, shared equipment

Mattress Audit — Inspect after discharge, remove damaged/stained mattresses

Bed Space Red Clean — Strict red clean after diarrhoea discharge, audit and feedback

Staff Training — Teaching on *C. diff*, hand hygiene, PPE, contact precautions, red clean, early recognition/escalation

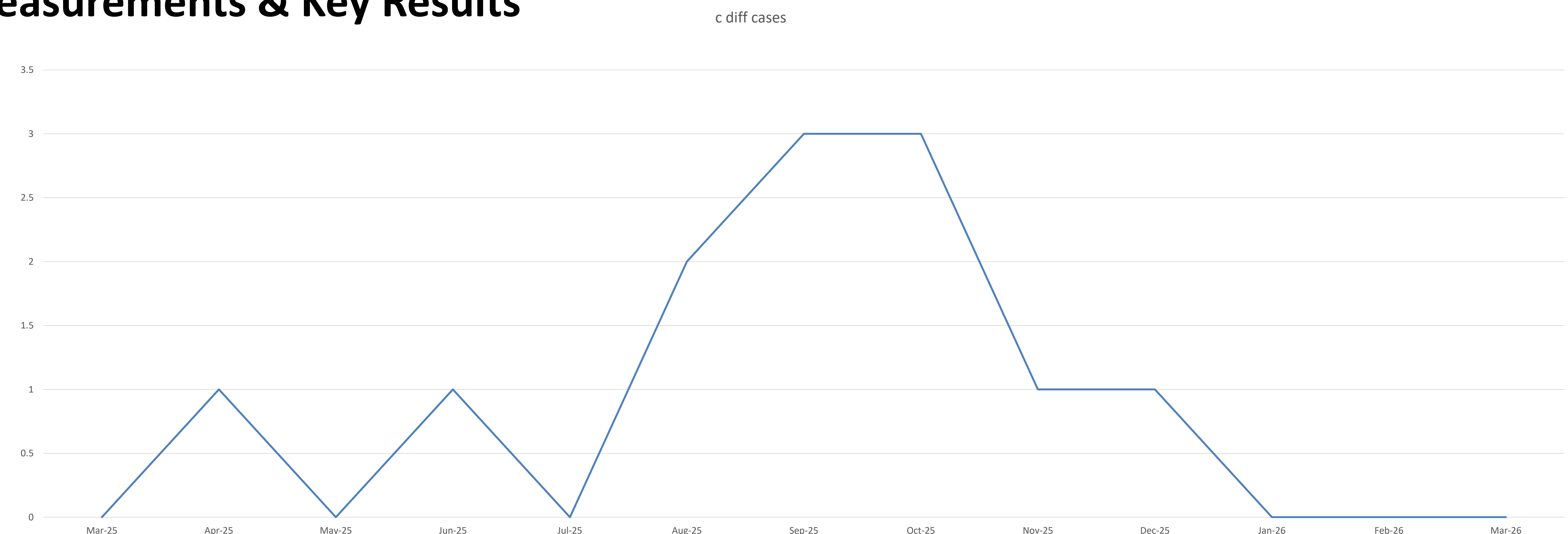
Next Steps

Continued surveillance, ongoing staff education, regular environmental/equipment audits, and sharing audit results to sustain improvement.

Safety Concern

During 2024, Ward 7A experienced a significant increase in hospital-acquired *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) infections. A fishbone analysis identified several contributing factors, including poor hand hygiene compliance, delays in stool sample collection, delayed isolation of symptomatic patients, and inadequate cleaning of affected bed spaces and side rooms.

Measurements & Key Results



Positive trend is noted from January 2026 with significant decline of c-diff cases