

# POWER OF KNOWLEDGE: REDUCING HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

## DEFINITION

Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) is an infection occurring in a patient during the process of care in a hospital or other healthcare facility which was not present or incubating at the time of admission.

## AFFECTED ADULTS IN EUROPE

 **4.1 Millions** every year

On any given day **1 in 18 patients** in EU hospitals get at least one healthcare associated infection.

## most common infections

**ICU** (intensive care units)

**SSI** (surgical site infections)

**PNEUMONIA** 157.014 patients in EU/EEA each year;

**BLOODSTREAM** infections 90.090 patients in EU/EEA each year;

**URINARY TRACT** infections 82.368 patients in EU/EEA each year.

In 2016, over **10.000 SSIs** were reported in the EU from a total of 630.551 surgical procedures.

## BURDEN

**2x** HAIs account for twice the burden of 31 other infectious diseases.



prolonged hospital stays



long-term disability



massive additional costs for health systems

**EVERY DAY, HAI RESULTS IN:**



increased use of antibiotics and therefore a higher risk of antimicrobial resistance



high costs for patients and their family, and unnecessary deaths

## ICU aquired infections

thereby constitute a substantial burden in intensive care units in the EU/EEA with large public health and economic consequences. The total burden in ICUs in the EU/EEA countries is estimated at around:

**3.43 Million** extra days of ICU stay per year.



## THE VALUE OF SCREENING AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS

ACCORDING TO THE ECDC, AT LEAST 20% OF HAIS ARE PREVENTABLE BY SUSTAINED AND MULTIFACETED INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMMES.



**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE** involves prospective steps to identify patients who have or may develop HAIs, using standardized definitions of infection, pre-determined criteria and protocols that result in risk-adjusted HAI incidence rates.

**ACTIVE SCREENING** of 'at-risk' patients upon admission to a hospital is an effective method to detect whether patients are carrying highly resistant bacteria. This is crucial for preventing infections spread.



**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME** can contribute to reducing healthcare-associated infections by 71% and the overall expenditure by 80%.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage the implementation of **ACTIVE SCREENING PROGRAMMES** through rapid diagnostic technologies.
- Enable the **UPTAKE OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS** that prevent and control infections in hospital and healthcare facilities (eg. Antiseptic sutures and implants, wound care solutions, air and environment control, diagnostics etc.).
- Encourage and support Member States to put in place and monitor **NATIONAL TARGETS** for the surveillance and reduction of AMR/HAIs.
- Advance the implementation of antibiotic **STEWARDSHIP TEAMS** in hospital and healthcare facilities.
- Facilitate **MUTUAL LEARNING** and make data more comparable through a common terminology for surveillance indicators.