

# C-DIFF BEST PRACTICES



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# OBJECTIVES

- Compare and contrast types of stools using the Bristol Stool Chart
- Explain when to place resident on Contact Plus Precautions
- Explain what specimen container to use and how to store specimen prior to testing
- Explain what symptoms require the RN to complete c-diff assessment note in CPRS
- Explain how to complete c-diff assessment note in CPRS
- Verbalize how to use the c-diff algorithm

# What is C-diff?

- Type of bacteria that causes inflammation and infection of the colon.



# BRISTOL STOOL CHART








Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on its surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges (passed easily)
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces <b>Entirely liquid</b>

Image Credit: Dr. Ken Heaton, MD, The University of Bristol, The Bristol Stool Chart, 1997.





# Contact Plus PPE

- First sign of GI symptoms (loose stool and vomiting)
- Place veteran on Contact Plus immediately
- Start washing hands with soap and water. No hand sanitizer.
- Change wipes to clean room and equipment to blue top Bleach wipes.

# Order Set for C-diff Specimen

**C. DIFFICILE INFECTION (CDI) ALGORITHM**

**Within FIRST 3 days of admission**  
(Day of admission is day 1)

Does patient complain of or have ANY unexplained loose stools now or prior to admission?

NO  
YES

[Clostridium Difficile Algorithm](#)

**AFTER day 3 of admission**

Has the patient had  $\geq 3$  unexpected liquid/loose stools beyond the known or established baseline within the past 24 hours?

NO  
YES

**Pending**

**YES** Done

Order C.Diff test and place patient on Contact Plus Precaution.  
(Stool sample must be collected before midnight on day three of admission)

C. Diff Lab Test

C. DIFFICILE INFECTION (CDI) ORDER SET

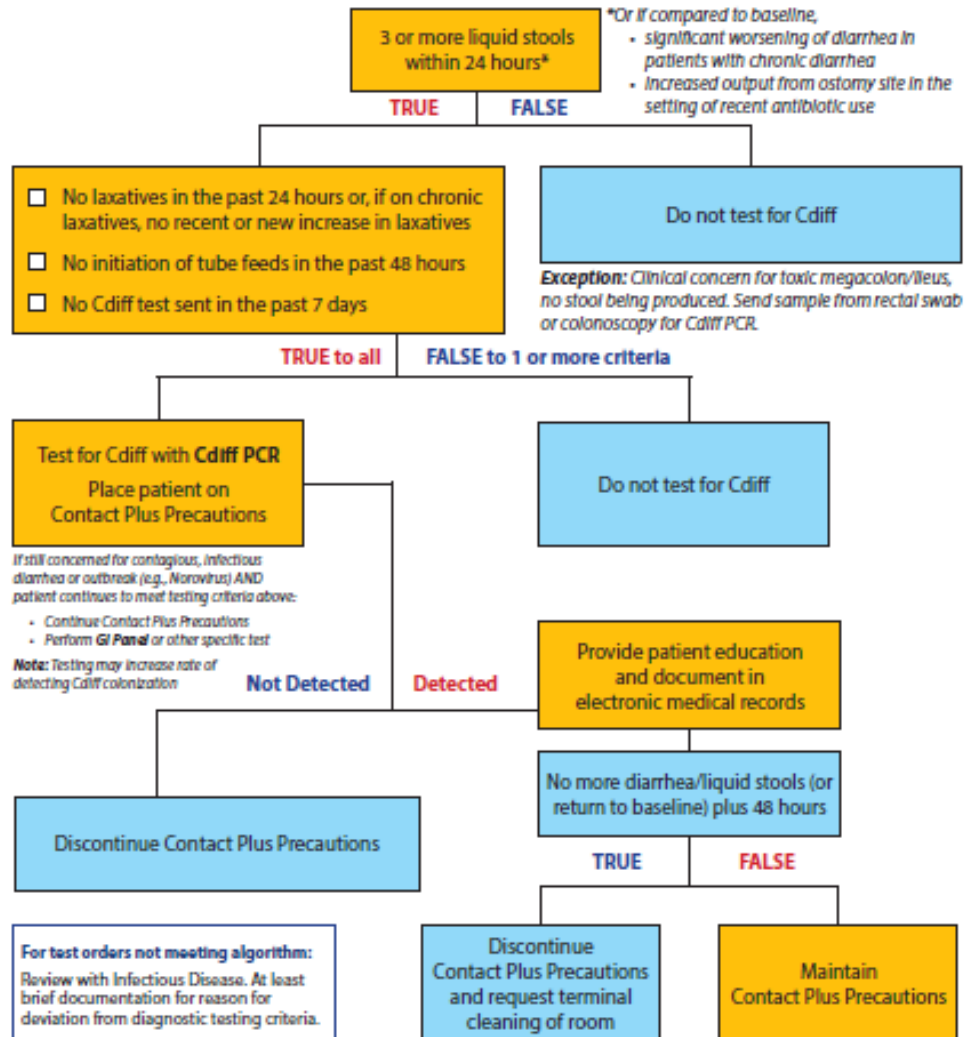
**YES** Done

Can the diarrhea be the result of the patient currently or recently (past 48 hours) being introduced to a new medication or therapy associated with diarrhea such as any of the following:  
stool softeners, laxatives, enemas, bowel preps, lactulose, tube feeds, or IV contrasts?

[YES](#)

NO

# C.diff PCR/GI Panel Test Ordering Algorithm



1. You must have 3 Type 7 stools within 24 hours
2. New laxatives added in last 24 hours?
3. Initiation of tube feeds in 48 hours?
4. C-diff test sent in the last 7 days?

# RN C-DIFF ASSESSMENT NOTE +

## C-DIFF BEST PRACTICES

### How To Create C-Diff Assessment Note

#### 1. Click on New Note

ZZTEST.PATIENT ELEVEN [OUTPATIENT] CPRS Feb 10,23 15:39 No PACT assigned at any VA location  
000-00-1212 Feb 01,1960 (78) Current Provider Not Selected

**COVID-19** Prior Positive

Last 100 Signed Notes

Visit: 01/31/23 ACUTE - NURSING NOTE, VSE TEST CLINIC B PR

LOCAL TITLE: ACUTE - NURSING NOTE  
STANDARD TITLE: NURSING INPATIENT NOTE  
DATE OF NOTE: Mar 06, 2023 09:21 ENTRY DATE: M  
AUTHOR: KATES, SHANTRELL EXP COUSINER  
URGENCY: STATUS: C

Veteran has no complaints  
/s/ SHANTRELL KATES MSN, RN  
NURSING EDUCATION  
Signed: 03/06/2023 09:33

Templates  
Encounter  
New Note

Cover Sheet Problems Meds Orders Notes Consults Surgery DIC Summ Labs Reports

#### 2. Note is Called DUB C-DIFF ASSESSMENT

Progress Note Properties

Progress Note Title: **DUB C-DIFF ASSESSMENT**

DUB INTEG-R-FABJAA-FIP TEL NOTE  
DUB TECS PHOTO CONSULT (OUTPATIENT) <EYE CBOC TECS PHOTO CONSULT (OUTPATIENT)>  
DUB-GASTROENTEROLOGY HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAM  
DUB-NUR PAIN TOOL  
DUB-NUTRITION EVALUATION  
DUB-PRIMARY CARE LETTER(PCL)  
DUBLIN <CONSULT INITIAL MOVE ASSESSMENT (DUBLIN)>  
DUBLIN <EHRM CUTOVER DUBLIN VAMC>  
DUBLIN <EHRM CUTOVER REMINDERS DUBLIN VAMC>  
DUBLIN <HOMELESS GRANT & PER DIEM (DUBLIN)>  
DUBLIN <PM&RS (DUBLIN) OUTPT-BOTOC INJECTIONS>

Date/Time of Note: Mar 10,2023@09:11  
Author: Olson,Amber L - Rn (Registered Nurse)

#### 3. Click Gastrointestinal and the template will open. DO NOT Click EDE-Q.

C-DIFF ASSESSMENT

GASTROINTESTINAL:  Perform EDE-Q

Last bowel movement: No data available

Last bowel movement (enter date as MM/DD/YYYY (e.g. 02/01/2021)):

Last bowel movement reported by patient-unintended  
 No bowel movement reported by patient

Stool: (enter description, color, amount)

Passing flatus  
 Elimination:  Continence  Incontinence  Ostomy

Abdominal Description:

Flat  
 Rounded  
 Distended  
 Protuberant (central obesity)  
 Taut  
 Other:

Palpation:  Soft  Non-tender  Firm  Guarding  Other:

Bowel Sounds:

Positive all 4 quadrants  
 Document individual quadrants  
 Unable to assess

Symptoms:  
Supplemental Gastrointestinal:

Visit Info Finish Cancel

#### 4. Click what is appropriate in the Gastrointestinal Assessment

C-DIFF ASSESSMENT

GASTROINTESTINAL:  Perform EDE-Q

Last bowel movement: No data available

Last bowel movement (enter date as MM/DD/YYYY (e.g. 02/01/2021)):

Bowel movement reported by patient-unintended  
 No bowel movement reported by patient

Stool: (enter description, color, amount)

Description:

Soft  
 Hard  
 Liquid  
 Semi-formed  
 Other:

Color:

Black  
 Brown  
 Green  
 Blood, frank  
 Blood-tinged  
 Other:

Amount:

Large  
 Medium  
 Small  
 Absent

Passing flatus  
 Elimination:  Continence  Incontinence  Ostomy  
 Abdominal Description:

#### 5. Scroll down and continue to click (most importantly click what type of stool is noted).

Supplemental Gastrointestinal:

Bowel Management:  
 Rectal Management system:  
 GI Tubes:

Bristol stool chart:

Type 1: Separate hard lumps - SEVERE CONSTIPATION  
 Type 2: Lumpy and sausage like - MILD CONSTIPATION  
 Type 3: Sausage shape with cracks on the surface - NORMAL  
 Type 4: Like a smooth, soft sausage or snake - NORMAL  
 Type 5: Soft blobs with clear-cut edges - LACKING FIBER (fiber)  
 Type 6: Mashy consistency with ragged edges - MILD DIARRHEA  
 Type 7: Liquid consistency with no solid pieces - SEVERE DIARRHEA

Visit Info Finish Cancel

#### 6. Tag the provider, unit manager and Charge RN for next shift situational awareness.

1. Inform RN that veteran had Type 7 stool.
2. RN performs focused GI assessment
3. RN completes RN C-diff Assessment Note. Tag provider and next charge RN.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 for each Type 7 stool.

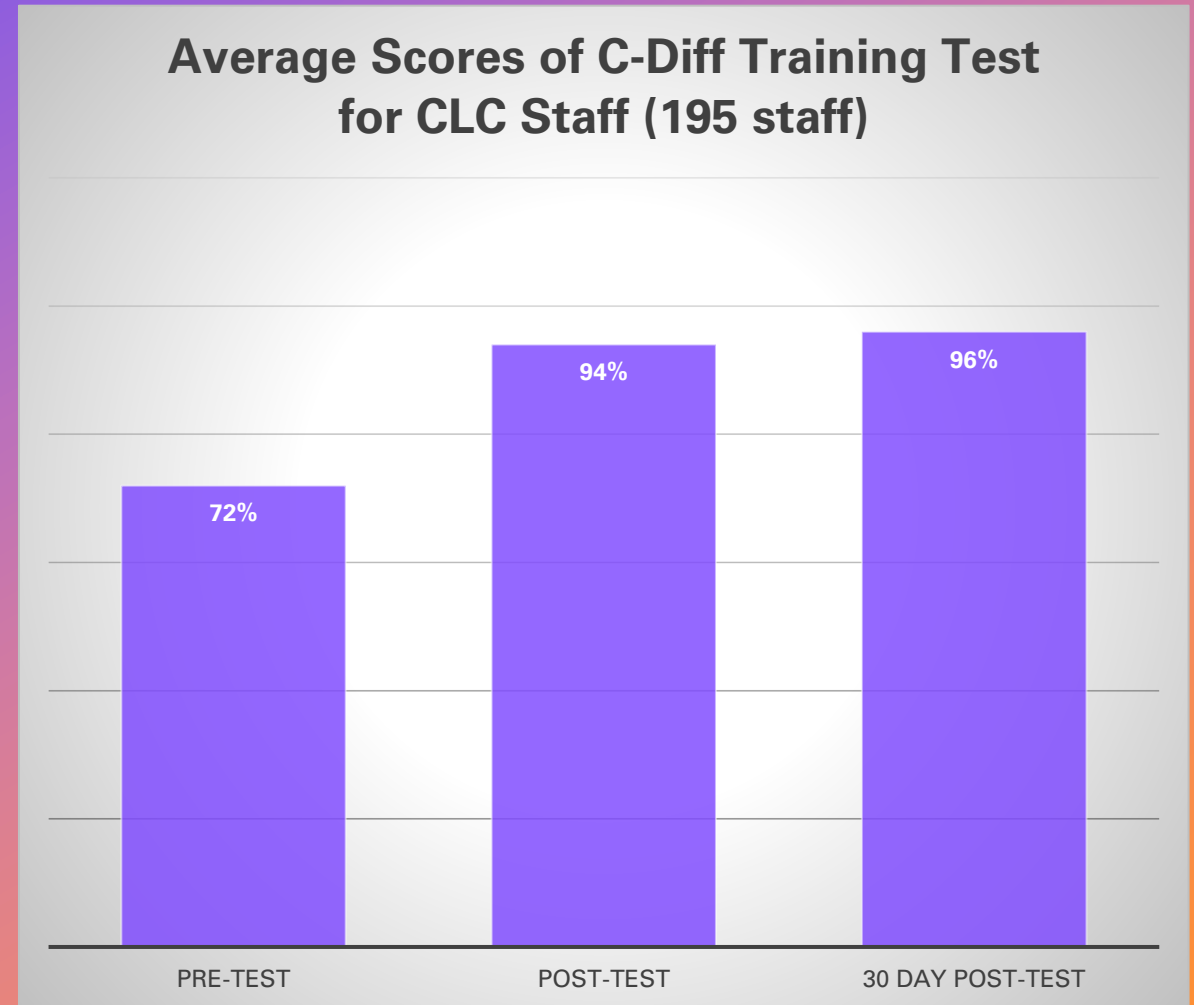


# Specimen Collection

- Must collect the 3<sup>rd</sup> Type 7 stool
- Specimen must be stored in the fridge in the laboratory.
- Deliver the specimen to laboratory at all hours of the day and night immediately.
- Saturday 11p- Sunday 7a no one is in the lab; the police will open laboratory door to allow you to place the specimen in the fridge for storage.

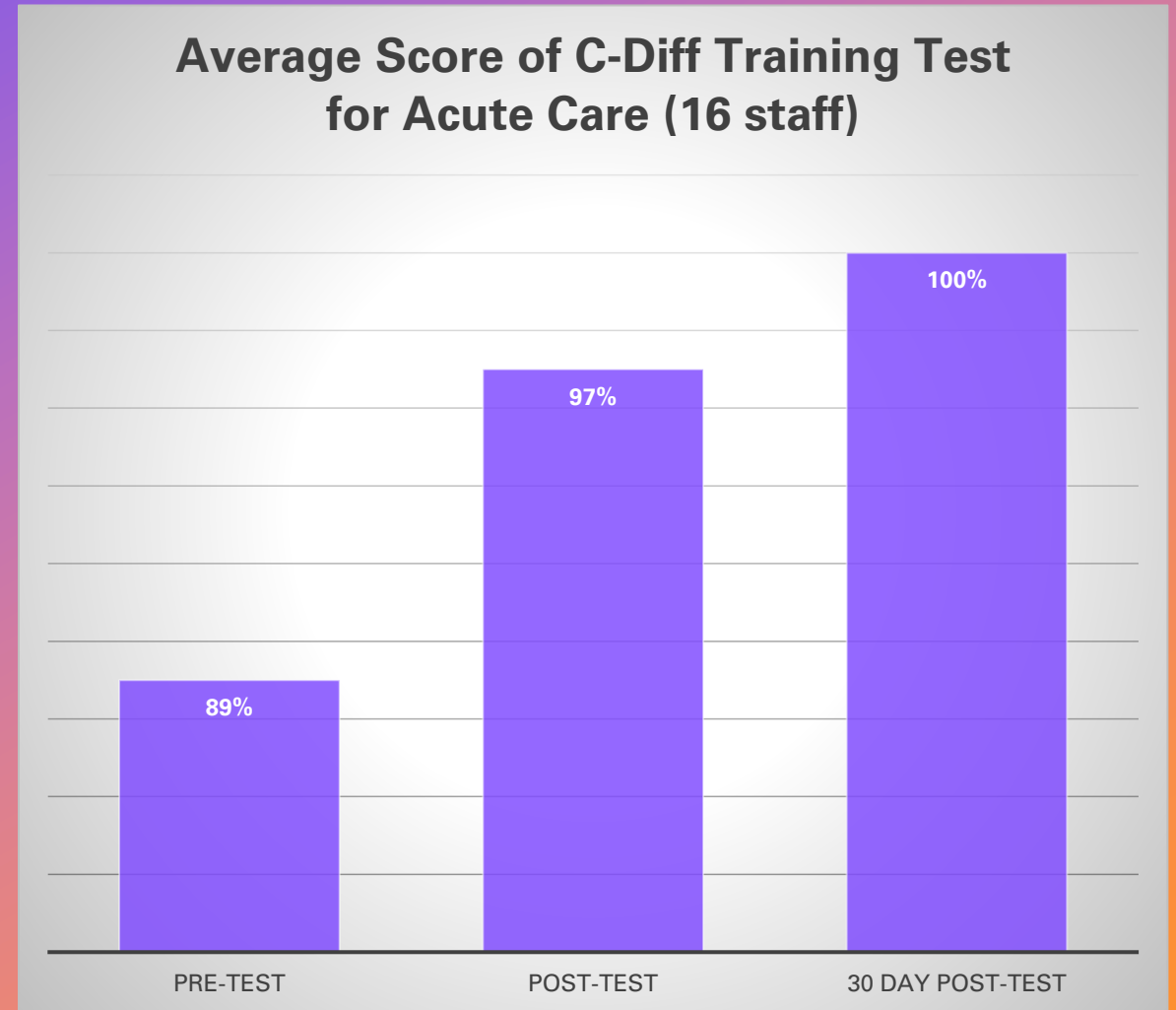
# EDUCATION DATA

100% CLC STAFF EDUCATED



# EDUCATION DATA

66% ACUTE CARE STAFF EDUCATED












# SIMULATED STOOL FOR TRAINING



# BADGE BUDDY

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Sausage but with cracks
Type 4		Sausage or snake, smooth & soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, mushy
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely liquid



# Collaboration with EMS



- The MDRO's discovery of moon beams no longer on units but locked in a closet in the EMS department
- Moon beams were deployed back onto designated units
- Close proximity will promote the likelihood of EMS' use of the moon beam.
- EMS department was trained on the Butterfly precautions to ensure proper PPE was being used.
- EMS Staff were given the butterfly PPE badge buddies to always wear to ensure consistent proper PPE usage.

 <b>Enhanced</b>	Gown and Gloves Good Hand Hygiene
 <b>Droplet</b>	Gown, Gloves, Mask, Eye Protection Good Hand Hygiene Keep Room Door Closed
 <b>Special Droplet</b>	Gown, Gloves, Mask, Eye Protection Good Hand Hygiene Keep Room Door Closed <b>Must wear N-95 Mask</b>
 <b>Contact</b>	Gown and Gloves Good Hand Hygiene
 <b>Contact PLUS</b>	Gown and Gloves Good Hand Hygiene <b>*Soap &amp; Water ONLY*</b>

Butterfly	Diagnosis
<b>Enhanced</b>	MRSA Colonization
<b>Droplet</b>	diphtheria, influenza, mumps pertussis and bacterial meningitis
<b>Special Droplet</b>	COVID-19
<b>Contact</b>	*Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), *Carbapenam-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), *Extended Beta Lactamases (ESBL's), *Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)
<b>Contact PLUS</b>	Clostridium difficile (C diff), Norovirus <b>Soap &amp; Water Only</b>
<b>Must wear mask at all times during COVID pandemic, until directed otherwise.</b>	



# SAIL CLC

(VA Internal Benchmarking)  
 (5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC  
 FY22Q3

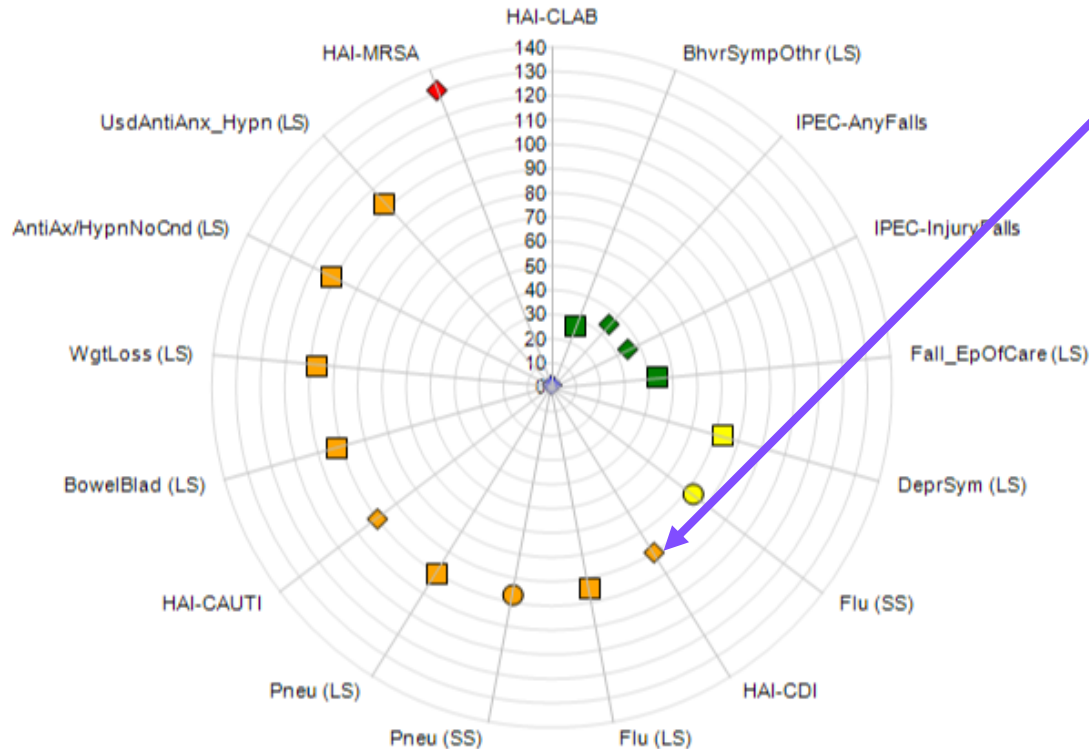
- CLC Compare Data Defs
- MDS Tech Manual
- CSAR Help Desk
- Help Desk Instructions

NOTE: The MDS technical specifications for the short-stay pressure ulcer measure changed and the quality measure data source was not updated to reflect the new specifications. The reported Quality and Overall star ratings should be considered 'interim' ratings until the measure is resolved and previously posted star ratings are revised.

## VA CLC Quintile Rankings Other CLC Quality Measures

[CLC Compare Measures Radar Chart](#) [Other CLC Quality Measures Radar Chart](#)

Concentric circles on the radar graph indicate CLC rank. Markers closer to the center of the graph indicate higher performance relative to other VA CLCs.  
 Red - 5th Quintile; Orange - 4th; Yellow - 3rd; Green - 2nd; Blue - 1st Quintile



**CLC started out in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quintile at 0.74%**

### MEASURES

AntiAx/HypnNoCnd (LS)	Gvn AntiAnxi/Hypn Meds but no psych cond in period
BhvrSympOthr (LS)	Behavior Symptoms that affect others.
BowelBlad (LS)	Lose Control of Bowel/Bladder
DeprSym (LS)	Depressive Symptoms
Fall_EpOfCare (LS)	Fall During Episode of Care
Flu (LS)	Given Influenza Vaccine
Flu (SS)	Given Influenza Vaccine
HAI-CAUTI	HAI-CAUTI
HAI-CDI	HAI-CDI
HAI-CLAB	HAI-CLAB
HAI-MRSA	HAI-MRSA
IPEC-AnyFalls	IPEC-AnyFalls
IPEC-InjuryFalls	IPEC-InjuryFalls
Pneu (LS)	Given Pneumococcal Vaccine
Pneu (SS)	Given Pneumococcal Vaccine
UsdAntiAnx_Hypn (LS)	Used Antianxiety or Hypnotic
WgtLoss (LS)	Lose Too Much Weight



# SAIL CLC

(VA Internal Benchmarking)  
 (5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC  
 FY22Q4

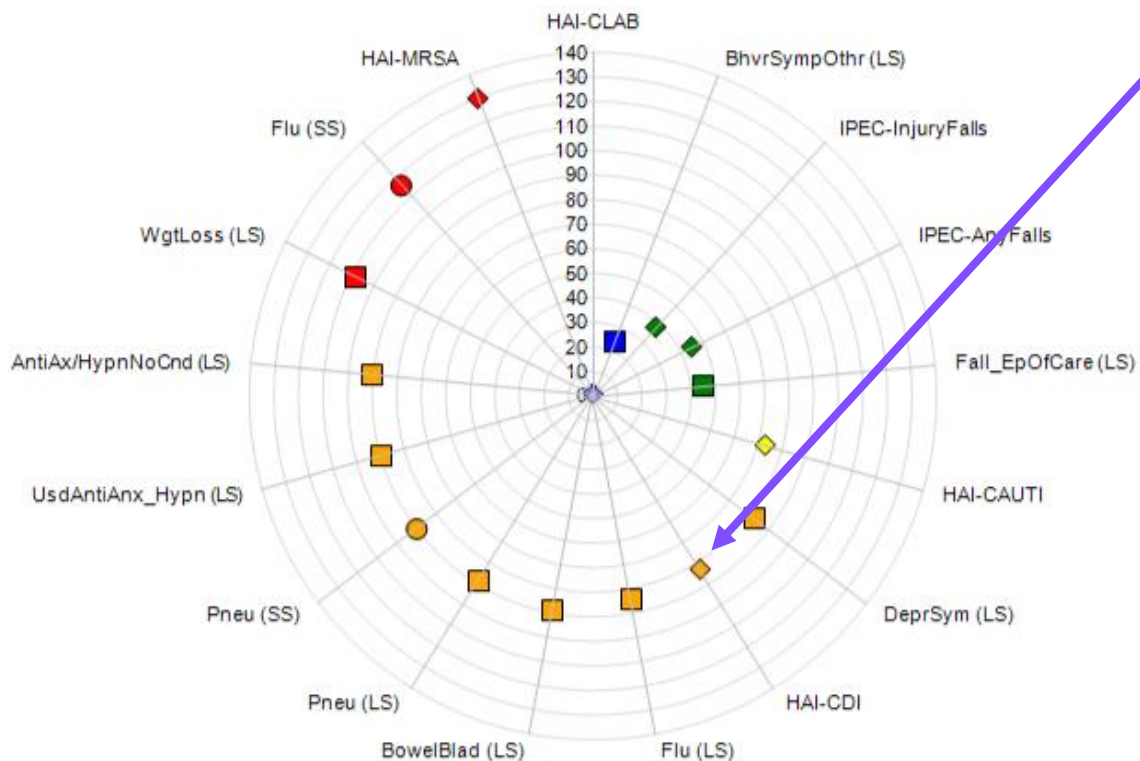
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Concentric circles on the radar graph indicate CLC rank. Markers closer to the center of the graph indicate higher performance relative to other VA CLCs.  
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**We remained in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quintile at 0.71%**

### MEASURES

AntiAx/HypnNoCnd (LS)	Gvn AntiAnxi/Hypn Meds but no psych cond in period
BhvrSympOthr (LS)	Behavior Symptoms that affect others.
BowelBlad (LS)	Lose Control of Bowel/Bladder
DeprSym (LS)	Depressive Symptoms
Fall_EpOfCare (LS)	Fall During Episode of Care
Flu (LS)	Given Influenza Vaccine
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UsdAntiAnx_Hypn (LS)	Used Antianxiety or Hypnotic
WgtLoss (LS)	Lose Too Much Weight



# SAIL CLC

(VA Internal Benchmarking)  
 (5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC  
 FY23Q1

- CLC Compare Data Defs
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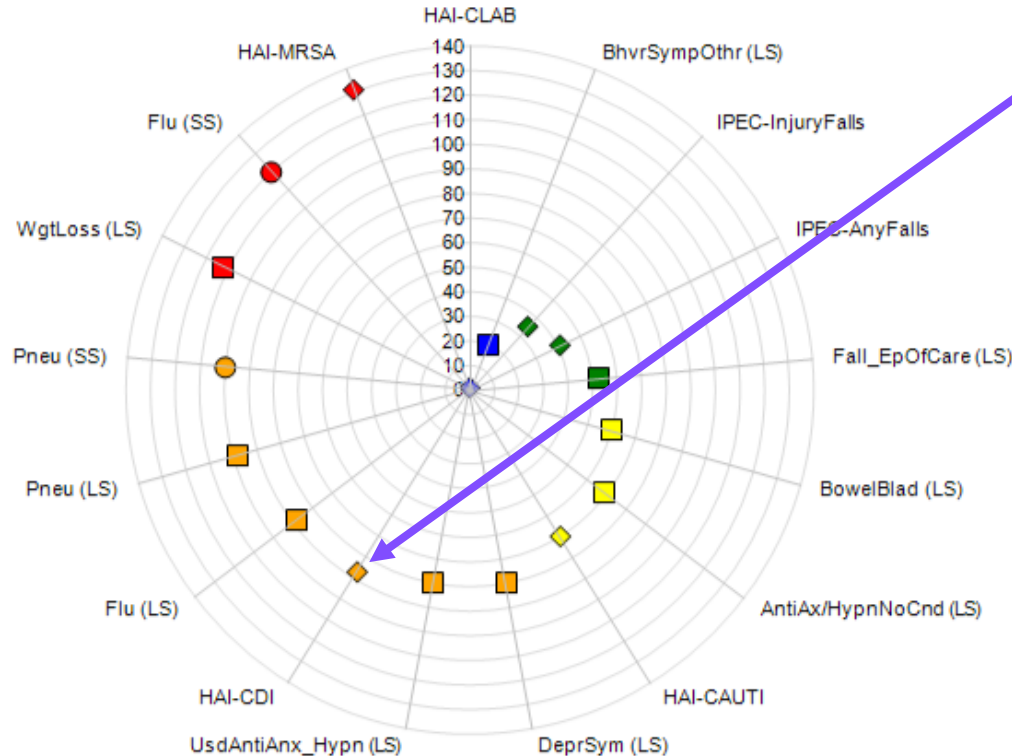
NOTE: The MDS technical specifications for the short-stay pressure ulcer measure changed and the quality measure data source was not updated to reflect the new specifications. The reported Quality and Overall star ratings should be considered 'interim' ratings until the measure is resolved and previously posted star ratings are revised.

**We continued to be in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quintile at 0.67% but we were slowly making progress**

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MEASURES	
AntiAnx/HypnNoCnd (LS)	Gvn AntiAnxi/Hypn Meds but no psych cond in period
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DeprSym (LS)	Depressive Symptoms
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UsdAntiAnx_Hypn (LS)	Used Antianxiety or Hypnotic
WgtLoss (LS)	Lose Too Much Weight



# SAIL CLC

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 (5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC  
 FY23Q2

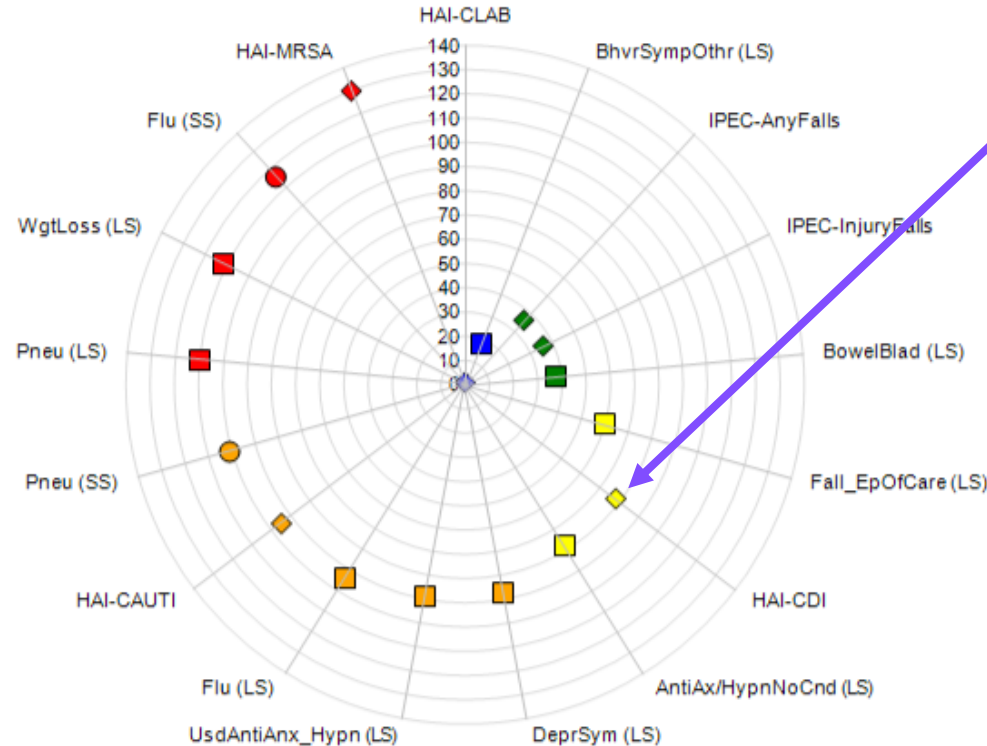
- CLC Compare Data Defs
- MDS Tech Manual
- CSAR Help Desk
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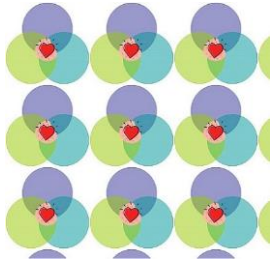
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**With all our hard work we made it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quintile at 0.32%**

### MEASURES

AntiAx/HypnNoCnd (LS)	Gvn AntiAnxi/Hypn Meds but no psych cond in period
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BowelBlad (LS)	Lose Control of Bowel/Bladder
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## Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL)

for Community Living Centers

# SAIL CLC

(VA Internal Benchmarking)

(5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC

FY23Q2

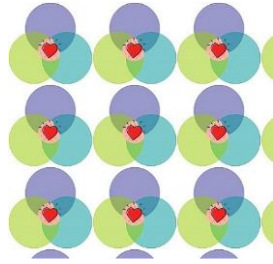
- [SAIL CLC Data Data](#)
- [CLC Compare Data Data](#)
- [MDS Tech Manual](#)
- [CSIR Help Desk](#)
- [Help Desk Instructions](#)

## CLC Quality Measure Trend Report

### HAI-CDI - All Residents (Lower is Better)

Click on the (+) in front of 'Previous' to expand previous Timeperiods.

Timeperiod	Rolling 4 Quarter Measures					
	Rate/10k Bed Days	VISN 7 Avg	VA National Average	VA National Percentiles		
				10th	50th	90th
Previous						
<a href="#">FY22Q3</a>	0.74	0.05	0.07	0	0.38	2.88
<a href="#">FY22Q4</a>	0.71	0.07	0.06	0	0.34	2.57
<a href="#">FY23Q1</a>	0.67	0.06	0.06	0	0.28	2.2
<a href="#">FY23Q2</a>	0.32	0.05	0.07	0	0	2.88



## Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL)

for Community Living Centers

# SAIL CLC

(VA Internal Benchmarking)

(5579AA) Carl Vinson VAMC

FY23Q2

[SAIL CLC Data Data](#)

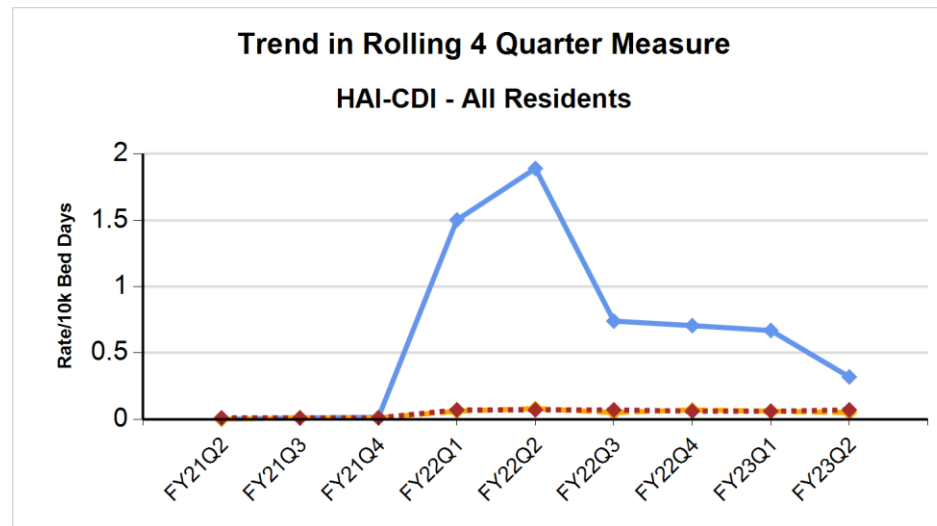
[CLC Compare Data Data](#)

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[CSIR Help Desk](#)

[Help Desk Instructions](#)

Click on the Timeperiod to view a IPEC Measure details.



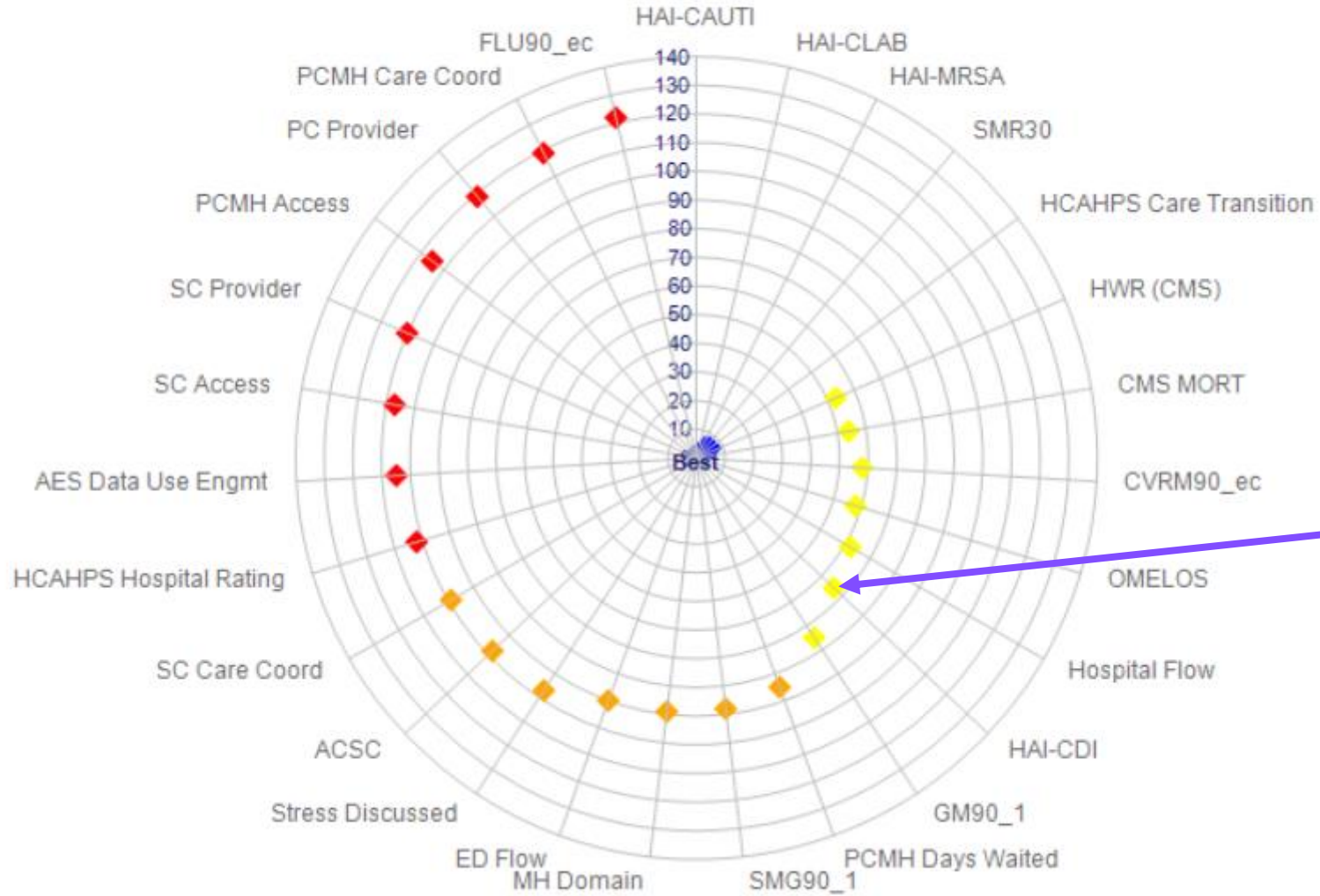
# VISN 7 Summary of Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI) Rates

	Rolling 12 Months			FY 2022 YTD			Rolling 6 Months			FY 2022 Q4			# Months Reported	Facility	National Aggregates Rolling 12 Months	National Aggregates Rolling 6 Months
	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate				
VISN 7	149003	36	2.42	149003	36	2.42	72703	12	1.65	37372	7	1.87		All Complexity Levels	3.56	3.42
Atlanta	47304	15	3.17	47304	15	3.17	23674	3	1.27	11986	2	1.67	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.50	3.19
Augusta	33776	9	2.66	33776	9	2.66	17307	6	3.47	8954	4	4.47	12	1b-High complexity	3.68	3.94
Birmingham	27069	4	1.48	27069	4	1.48	12274	1	0.81	6387	1	1.57	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.50	3.19
Charleston	20705	4	1.93	20705	4	1.93	9557	1	1.05	4810	0	0.00	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.50	3.19
Columbia, SC	13272	2	1.51	13272	2	1.51	6690	1	1.49	3540	0	0.00	12	1b-High complexity	3.68	3.94
Dublin	1782	1	5.61	1782	1	5.61	824	0	0.00	421	0	0.00	12	2-Medium complexity	4.32	4.88
Montgomery	5095	1	1.96	5095	1	1.96	2377	0	0.00	1274	0	0.00	12	2-Medium complexity	4.32	4.88

	Rolling 12 Months			FY 2023 YTD			Rolling 6 Months			FY 2023 Q1			# Months Reported	Facility	National Aggregates Rolling 12 Months	National Aggregates Rolling 6 Months
	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate				
VISN 7	146264	39	2.67	34509	14	4.06	71881	21	2.92	34509	14	4.06		All Complexity Levels	3.51	3.49
Atlanta	47817	17	3.56	11776	7	5.94	23762	9	3.79	11776	7	5.94	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.45	3.41
Augusta	31003	10	3.23	5186	2	3.86	14140	6	4.24	5186	2	3.86	11	1b-High complexity	3.75	3.57
Birmingham	26160	4	1.53	6505	2	3.07	12892	3	2.33	6505	2	3.07	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.45	3.41
Charleston	20871	7	3.35	5727	3	5.24	10537	3	2.85	5727	3	5.24	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.45	3.41
Columbia, SC	13756	0	0.00	3641	0	0.00	7181	0	0.00	3641	0	0.00	12	1b-High complexity	3.75	3.57
Dublin	1661	1	6.02	347	0	0.00	768	0	0.00	347	0	0.00	12	2-Medium complexity	4.14	4.16
Montgomery	4996	0	0.00	1327	0	0.00	2601	0	0.00	1327	0	0.00	12	2-Medium complexity	4.14	4.16

	Rolling 12 Months			FY 2023 YTD			Rolling 6 Months			FY 2023 Q2			# Months Reported	Facility	National Aggregates Rolling 12 Months	National Aggregates Rolling 6 Months
	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate	Bed Days	Infs	Inf Rate				
VISN 7	148624	35	2.35	75921	24	3.16	75921	24	3.16	38507	10	2.60		All Complexity Levels	3.37	3.33
Atlanta	47882	14	2.92	24208	11	4.54	24208	11	4.54	12432	5	4.02	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.13	3.08
Augusta	34013	12	3.53	16706	6	3.59	16706	6	3.59	8615	3	3.48	12	1b-High complexity	3.78	3.65
Birmingham	25272	4	1.58	12998	3	2.31	12998	3	2.31	6493	1	1.54	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.13	3.08
Charleston	21305	4	1.88	11748	3	2.55	11748	3	2.55	6021	0	0.00	12	1a-Highest complexity	3.13	3.08
Columbia, SC	13572	0	0.00	6882	0	0.00	6882	0	0.00	3241	0	0.00	12	1b-High complexity	3.78	3.65
Dublin	1441	0	0.00	617	0	0.00	617	0	0.00	270	0	0.00	12	2-Medium complexity	4.57	4.28
Montgomery	5139	1	1.95	2762	1	3.62	2762	1	3.62	1435	1	6.97	12	2-Medium complexity	4.57	4.28

### Dublin VAMC (FY2023Q1) (Metric)



3<sup>rd</sup> Quintile  
 CDI 6.02%



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**THANK YOU**  
DUB C-diff Workgroup