



## Reducing infection

Every member of staff has an important role to play when it comes to reducing infection. For a start, we should all be aware of the importance of hand hygiene as this is one of the quickest and easiest ways to stop the spread of infection and provides assurance to our patients that we take infection control seriously.

### Current focus – reducing *Clostridium difficile*:

- A key patient safety issue for us is to reduce the number of *Clostridium difficile* infections across the organisation.
- To date we've had **41 trust-attributed cases** this year against our full-year **target of 49** trust-apportioned cases (although some of these are under appeal with our commissioners).
- The most effective ways to prevent *Clostridium difficile* infection are focused on five key areas in the 'focus on five' campaign – antibiotic prescribing, hand-washing, patient isolation, effective environmental cleaning and effective communication. This requires constant vigilance from **every** member of staff if we are to create a zero-harm culture for all our patients.
- Patient equipment must be cleaned with an appropriate solution after every use.
- Patients with infection are managed safely and appropriately in isolation – door closed, correct STOP sign, correct PPE, correct cleaning/decontamination, designated equipment.
- Patients are provided with up-to-date information leaflets to ensure they are fully informed and involved in their management.

