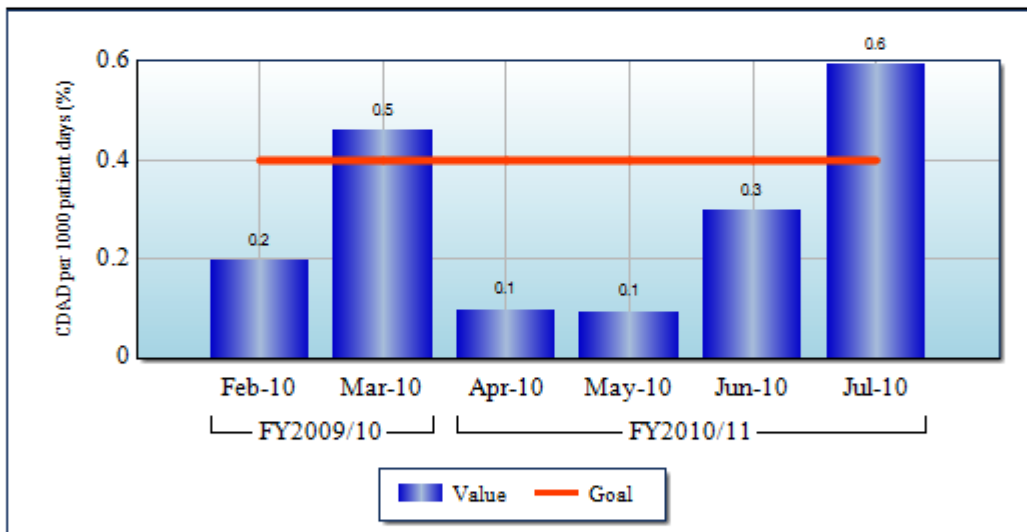


### C. difficile Associated Disease (CDAD)

*Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions such as colitis. It is the most common cause of infectious diarrhea in hospitalized patients in the industrialized world.

The use of antibiotics increases the chances of developing *C. difficile* diarrhea. Treatment with antibiotics alters the normal levels of good bacteria found in the intestines. When there are fewer of these good bacteria, *C. difficile* can thrive and produce toxins that can cause an infection. The combination of the presence of *C. difficile* in hospitals and the number of people receiving antibiotics in these settings can lead to the spread of CDAD. By washing your hands often, you can greatly reduce your chances of picking up *C. difficile*.

Rate of Hospital Acquired CDAD



**July 2010 CVH Data:**

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.59
Total Cases	6

**Interpretation:**

The *C. difficile* rate for July 2010 is above the internal goal. Each new case of *C. difficile* is investigated and control measures are audited to reduce the risk of transmission within our hospital. Increased efforts were made to ensure adequate environmental cleaning, hand hygiene and other appropriate infection control precautions. We will continue to monitor closely for all cases of hospital-acquired diarrhea and *C difficile* infection.