

INFECTION PREVENTION REGION: EUROPEAN UNION

Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) are infections, which did not exist prior to hospital admission or incubation period.¹

HAIs can originate from

**endogenous
& external factors:**

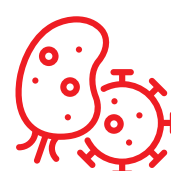
The patient's own bacterial flora or contaminated items, food, air as well as medical devices.²

HAIs are the most frequent harmful event in health-care delivery worldwide.³

The most frequent infections include⁴



respiratory infections



bloodstream infection



urinary infections



surgical-site infections

In the European Union alone, around **4,100,000** people per year suffer from **hospital-acquired infections**.⁵

At any given time, the prevalence of health care-associated infection in developed countries varies between

3.5%-12%⁷

Every year,

37,000

people die due to HAIs.⁶

In comparison: The European Union records approximately

25,700

road fatalities per year.⁸

Surgical site infections (SSIs)

are infections that occur in the part of the body where the surgery took place - typically, **within 30 days after surgery**.⁹ SSIs are among the most common HAIs.¹⁰

Patients who contract SSI are **more likely** to be re-hospitalized



twice as likely to be hospitalized in an intensive therapy unit

twice as likely to die¹¹



The additional costs associated with SSIs in the European Union amount to **7 billion euros** per year.¹²

40%-60% of SSIs are avoidable when the infection control measures are complied with and when the prevention guidelines are adopted.¹³

Sources:

1 WHO, Health care-associated infections, fact sheet, http://www.who.int/gpsc/country_work/gpsc_ccisc_fact_sheet_en.pdf. Accessed June 2017.

2 Collins (2008), "Preventing Health Care-Associated Infections", Hughes, ed., Patient Safety and Quality: An Evidence-Based Handbook for Nurses, Rockville.

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4 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Healthcare-associated infections, http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated_infections/Pages/index.aspx. Accessed June 2017.

5 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2012), "Annual epidemiological report on communicable diseases in Europe", <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/publications>. Accessed June 2017.

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8 European Commission (2015), "Road safety in the European Union. Trends, statistics and main challenges", http://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/road_safety/pdf/vademecum_2015.pdf. Accessed June 2017.

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10 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Healthcare-associated infections, http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated_infections/Pages/index.aspx

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