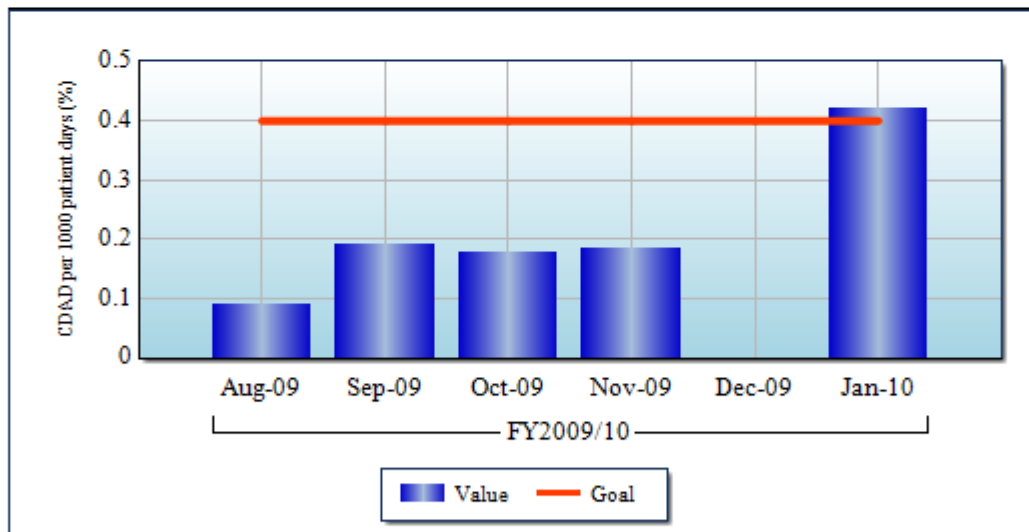


***C. difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)**

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



January 2010 CVH Data:

Rate per 1000 Patient Days	0.42
Total Cases	5

Interpretation:

The *C. difficile* rate increased in January 2010 and is slightly over the internal goal. An increase in the January rate was also observed in 2009. It is possible that an increase in antibiotic utilization (used to treat pneumonia) may have contributed to this. The Credit Valley Hospital continues to promote frequent hand hygiene, develop and implement improved strategies for environmental cleaning and antibiotic utilization.