

What is a Central Line Infection (CLI)?

When a patient requires long-term access to medication, fluids or nutrition through an IV, a ‘central line’ (central venous catheter) is placed into a patient’s vein. Central lines also allow health care providers to monitor fluid status and make determinations about the heart and blood.

A central line blood stream infection (BSI) can occur when bacteria and/or fungi grow in the central line and spread to the patient’s bloodstream, causing a patient to become sick. The bacteria can come from a variety of places (e.g., skin, wounds, environment, etc.), though it most often comes from the patient’s skin.

How is the CLI calculated?

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of ICU related blood stream infections after 48 hours of central line placement}}{\text{Total \# of central line days for ICU patients 18 years and older}} \times 1000$$

Trillium Health Centre’s CLI Data:

Trillium-Mississauga	Q1 2010/11	
	# of Incidents	Rate
Central Line Infection	1	0.47

What is Trillium Health Centre doing to prevent CLI?

Practicing proper hand hygiene is a key factor in preventing hospital-acquired infections, including CLI. Trillium Health Centre has participated in the Ontario Hospital Association’s “Just Clean Your Hands” initiative to further educate staff concerning proper hand hygiene techniques. Trillium also participates in the public reporting of its hand hygiene audit.

Trillium’s clinical team uses a checklist to ensure specific steps are followed to prevent contamination of the central line during insertion. The central line is examined daily and the patient is assessed multiple times throughout the day to ensure the line is removed as soon as the patient’s health allows.

What is Trillium Health Centre doing to improve patient safety?

At Trillium Health Centre, we are always looking at how we are performing and use different *performance indicators* to get a sense of where we excel and where improvements could be made. This information is essential to Trillium’s commitment to providing quality and safe care for its patients.

Our Board of Directors and Management Team believe it is important that the community we care for has access to this performance information. Trillium strongly supports the provincial government’s new public reporting regime because we believe it will inspire improved performance, enhance patient safety, and strengthen the public’s confidence in Ontario’s hospitals.

