### Glossary

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>antibiogram</td>
<td>The result of laboratory testing for the sensitivity of an isolated bacterial strain to different antibiotics. Antibiograms can be collated to form cumulative antibiograms, which can help to form prescribing guidelines at a hospital, regional or national level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antibiotic</td>
<td>A substance that kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria.</td>
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<tr>
<td>antimicrobial</td>
<td>A substance that kills or inhibits the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses or fungi. (See also: antibiotic, which is a class of antimicrobials.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>bacteraemia</td>
<td>A bacterial infection of the blood or the lymph system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>bloodstream infection</td>
<td>The presence of live pathogens in the blood, causing an infection. (See also: pathogen, infection.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>care bundle</td>
<td>A set of evidence-based practices that have been shown to improve outcomes when performed collectively and consistently. The concept was developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in the United States to improve the care process and patient outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>catheter</td>
<td>A thin, flexible, hollow tube used to add or remove fluids from the body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>colonisation</td>
<td>A process in which an organism (such as a bacterium) grows inside someone without causing illness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>control</td>
<td>A standard against which other conditions can be compared in a scientific experiment. For example, if an experiment tested the effects of a new antimicrobial, the results might be compared against a control group of people given standard antimicrobials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>epidemiology</td>
<td>The study of factors that have an impact on disease in the human community. Often used in the control of health problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>healthcare associated infection (HAI)</td>
<td>Infections acquired as a direct or indirect result of health care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>immunocompromised</td>
<td>Having an immune system that has been impaired by disease or treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>infection</td>
<td>The invasion and reproduction of pathogenic (disease-causing) organisms inside the body. This can cause tissue injury and progress to disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td>infection control or infection control measures</td>
<td>Measures that aim to prevent the spread of pathogens between people in a healthcare setting. Examples of infection control measures include hand washing, protective clothing, isolation procedures and audits of compliance with hygiene measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>inpatient</td>
<td>A patient who visits a healthcare facility for diagnosis or treatment and stays in the hospital for at least one night.</td>
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<tr>
<td>intravenous</td>
<td>Within or into a vein (e.g. an intravenous catheter would be a catheter that is inserted into a vein).</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>morbidity</td>
<td>The state of being ill, diseased or injured. (‘Morbidity rate’ describes the occurrence of a disease or condition that causes morbidity.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>mortality</td>
<td>Death, or the frequency or number of deaths. For example: infections are a major cause of mortality worldwide, and the mortality rate of [this type of] infection is 30%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nosocomial infection</td>
<td>An infection acquired in hospital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>occupied bed-days (OBDs)</td>
<td>Total number of bed-days of all admitted patients accommodated during the reporting period, taken from a count of the number of inpatients at about midnight each day. Details for patients being admitted and leaving on the same day are also recorded as OBDs, counting one OBD for each same-day patient. In the United States, OBDs are referred to as ‘patient days’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>outbreak</td>
<td>A classification used in epidemiology to describe a small, localised group of people infected with a disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outpatient</td>
<td>A patient who visits a healthcare facility for diagnosis or treatment without spending the night. Sometimes called a day patient, day-stay patient or day-only patient.</td>
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<tr>
<td>pathogen</td>
<td>A disease-causing agent. The term is often used to refer to infectious microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses or fungi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>prophylactic</td>
<td>Medications or treatments that are preventive in the treatment of disease. For example, antimicrobials are sometimes given prophylactically before surgery to prevent infection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>risk factor</td>
<td>An activity or factor that may increase the chance of developing a disease. For example, smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>sepsis</td>
<td>A serious medical condition that is characterised by a whole-body inflammatory state (called a systemic inflammatory response syndrome or SIRS) and the presence of a known or suspected infection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>strain</td>
<td>A strain is a genetic variant or subtype of a microorganism (e.g. a virus, bacterium or fungus). Some strains may be more dangerous or difficult to treat than others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>surgical site infection</td>
<td>An infection at the site of a surgical operation that is caused by the operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surveillance</td>
<td>Disease surveillance is an epidemiological practice by which the spread of disease is monitored in order to establish patterns of progression. The main role of disease surveillance is to predict, observe and minimise the harm caused by outbreak, epidemic and pandemic situations, as well as increase our knowledge as to what factors might contribute to such circumstances.</td>
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