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| abx | antibiotic |
| ACH | Acute Care Hospital |
| APIC-PTC | Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology - Pine Tree Chapter (Maine) |
| Attack Rate | Measures the spread of infection within a given population (calculated as the number of new cases ÷ the number of persons in the population) |
| AMS | Antimicrobial Stewardship |
| AUR | Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (an NHSN module) |
| BSI | Bloodstream Infection |
| CAUTI | Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection |
| CDC | The U.S. Centers for Disease Control or the Maine Center for Disease Control |
| CDI | Clostridium difficile Infection (C.diff.) |
| CLABSI | Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection |
| CMS | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services |
| CSTE | Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists ( [www.cste.org](http://www.cste.org) ) |
| CO | Community Onset |
| CO-HCFA | Community Onset – Healthcare Facility Associated |
| COLO | Colon surgical infections/events or procedures |
| CRE | Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (a type of disease bacteria highly resistant to nearly all antibiotics) |
| dc | Discontinue (as in to discontinue a medication) |
| ELC | Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (a U.S. CDC funding program to enhance, "the capacity of state, local, and territorial health departments to effectively detect, respond, prevent, and control known and emerging (or re-emerging) infectious diseases") |
| EMS | Emergency Medical Services |
| EPI | Epidemiology or Epidemiologist or Epidemiological |
| ESBL | Extended Spectrum beta-lactamase (bacterial enzymes that breakdown the effectiveness of antibiotics) |
| GI | Gastrointestinal Illness |
| Gluc. | Glucose |
| HAI | Healthcare Associated Infections |
| HCW | Healthcare worker |
| HETL | The Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory |
| HO | Healthcare Facility Onset |
| HP 2020 | Healthy People 2020 ( [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov) ) |
| HYST | abdominal hysterectomy surgical infections/events or procedures |
| ICU | Intensive Care Unit |
| IHI | Institute for Healthcare Improvement ( [www.ihi.org](http://www.ihi.org) ) |
| ILI | Influenza-like Illness |
| Lab ID | Laboratory Identified (method of surveillance based solely on a positive lab test combined with the dates of admission and specimen collection) |
| LTC | Long Term Care |
| MIPC | Maine Infection Prevention Collaborative (now merged with APIC-PTC) |
| Mixed Acuity Unit | A hospital unit providing more than one level of care (e.g., ICU, etc.) where no one level represents 80%-or-more of the patients treated in the unit |
| MDRO | Multi-drug resistant organism (examples: CRE, ESBL, MRSA, VRE and CDI) |
| MMWR | Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report |
| MRSA | Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus |
| MS or Med/Surg | Medical/Surgical Unit |
| MQF | Maine Quality Forum |
| NICU | Neonatal Intensive Care Unit |
| NHSN | National Healthcare Safety Network (the U.S. CDC's repository for HAI  reporting data) |
| Nosocomial infection | A disease acquired by a patient while being treated in a healthcare facility |
| PCR | Polymerase chain reaction (a method of DNA analysis used in genetic testing, that can also be used to detect and identify even very small levels of disease organisms) |
| Periop | Perioperative: the period of time before, during and after surgery |
| PFGE | Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis (a type of lab test that looks at the DNA of  an organism) |
| PPV | Positive Predictive Value – the proportion of positive test results that are true positives compared to false positives |
| QIN-QIO | Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (e.g.., Healthcentric Advisors) |
| SCIP | Surgical Care Improvement Project |
| SIR | Standardized Infection Ratio (a risk-adjusted method for comparing HAI infection rates to a national baseline. SIR > 1 indicates an increase in an HAI infection rate compared to the national baseline. SIR < 1 indicates a decrease in an HAI infection rate compared to the national baseline. Each type of HAI infection has its own baseline. A lower SIR is better.) |
| SSI | Surgical Site Infection (examples: COLO, HYST) |
| TST | Tuberculosis Skin Test |
| VAE | Ventilator Associated Event |
| VAP | Ventilator Associated Pneumonia |
| VRE | Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus |
| YTD | Year-to-date |