

New stomach bug infecting more patients

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A virulent new strain of a bacterial stomach bug called *Clostridium difficile* is becoming more common in Australian hospitals.

Patients become very ill, often ending up in intensive care.

Experts say *C. difficile* is difficult to eradicate as it can live on surfaces.

Microbiologist Professor Thomas Riley from the University of Western Australia says rates of the infection have doubled in the past 12 months.

Professor Riley says there needs to be better national surveillance to monitor the spread of the infection.