



VANCOMYCIN RESISTANT ENTEROCOCCUS (VRE)

VRE is a strain of Enterococcus bacteria which has become resistant to many of the antibiotics normally used to kill it. These bacteria can sometimes cause infection.

The organism usually lives in people's bowels. However, it can live on skin or in the environment for long periods of time. People with VRE can spread it to others when they forget to wash their hands after using the washroom. It can also be spread by the unwashed hands or gloves of personnel after direct contact with patients or the contaminated environment. VRE can live in the environment up to seven days, so, commonly touched surfaces can be a major source for possible spread. VRE is not spread through the air by coughing or sneezing.

The risk of VRE infection is more common in people with a weakened immune system, those that are critically ill, have serious underlying conditions as well as those who have received many antibiotics.

Regular hand cleaning with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer is the best way to prevent the spread of VRE. HHS actively screens patients for this disease.

Rates of New Hospital Acquired VRE Infections at HHS

Cases

The number of new hospital acquired VRE infections will be reported on a quarterly basis.

Infection Rate per 1,000 Patient Days

The VRE infection rate is calculated as a rate per 1,000 patient days. The total patient days represents the sum of the number of days during which services were provided to all inpatients, over one year of age, during the given time period.

Rates in Smaller Facilities

The smaller the facility, the greater the rates will vary — this is because a change in even one case in a small facility will cause the rate to go up or down considerably.

Target Rate

The target rate is not currently available but it is anticipated that this will be established by the MOHLTC for hospitals of comparable size in the near future.

	2008	2009				
Georgetown Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	0	0	0	0	0	
Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

	2008	2009				
Milton District Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	0	0	0	0	0	
Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

	2008	2009				
Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	0	1	0	0	0	
Rate	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	