

Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) Bacteremia

What is Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)?

Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (**VRE**) is a type of enterococcus bacteria that has become resistant to vancomycin, an antibiotic that is often used to treat ordinary enterococcus infections.

VRE can live in the gastrointestinal tract (bowel) of individuals without causing illness (called colonization), but it can also cause serious infections such as bacteremia (bacteria in the bloodstream).

A health care associated infection with VRE (HA-VRE) is determined when symptoms of infection occur in people after they have been in hospital for more 72 hours.

How is VRE Spread?

VRE in healthcare settings is spread through direct contact with contaminated hands, usually those of health care workers who acquire it from contact with patients who are colonized or infected with VRE, or after handling contaminated material or equipment. The unrecognized colonized patient increase risk for spread to other patients.

What are the risk factors for VRE Bacteremia?

Typical risk factors for VRE bacteremia include severity of illness, presence of invasive medical devices such as intravenous catheter, invasive surgical procedures and colonization with VRE.

What are we doing to reduce healthcare associated infections at Hamilton Health Sciences?

HHS has several improvement initiatives to help prevent infection including:

- Reducing (Intravascular) Central Line infections
- Reducing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia
- Reducing Surgical Site Infections
- Reducing Central Line Infections
- Improving Staff and Visitor Hand Hygiene practices (Cleaning hands)
- Reducing Skin Breakdown

Infection Control Report

1. Health Care Associated VRE Bacteremia – Rate per 1000 patient days – Fiscal Quarter

Site	Q4 Mar 2019	Q1 Jun 2019	Q2 Sep 2019	Q3 Dec 2019	Q4 Mar 2020	Q1 Jun 2020
MUMC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HGH	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03
JH	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
SPH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WLMH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

2. Health Care Associated – Cases per site – Fiscal Quarter

Site	Q4 Mar 2019	Q1 Jun 2019	Q2 Sep 2019	Q3 Dec 2019	Q4 Mar 2020	Q1 Jun 2020
MUMC	0	0	0	0	0	0
HGH	<5	0	0	<5	0	<5
JH	<5	<5	0	<5	0	0
SPH	0	0	0	0	0	0
WLMH	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. Patient days per site – Fiscal Quarter

Site	Q4 Mar 2019	Q1 Jun 2019	Q2 Sep 2019	Q3 Dec 2019	Q4 Mar 2020	Q1 Jun 2020
MUMC	18539	17970	18065	19222	18561	15763
HGH	41547	41497	40191	41500	40128	30237
JH	37785	37137	38183	38219	34437	29061
SPH	20115	20375	20651	20503	19960	19336
WLMH	4646	4312	4384	4100	4590	3994

Healthcare Associated infections: The infection was not present on admission (i.e. onset of symptoms greater than 72 hours after admission) or the infection was present at the time of admission but was related to a previous hospitalization.