

What is Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)?

Enterococci are bacteria that are normally present in the human intestines and can also be present in the female genital tract (urethra, vagina), skin, oropharynx, bile, and are also often found in the environment. These bacteria are a common cause of hospital-associated infection. They can infect wounds, ulcers and medical device sites in hospitalized patients. Vancomycin is an antibiotic that is often used to treat infections caused by enterococci. In some instances, enterococci can become resistant to this drug and are called *Vancomycin-resistant* enterococci.

How is VRE calculated?

VRE is calculated at a rate per 1,000 patient days.

Trillium Health Centre's VRE Data:

Trillium-Mississauga	Target	Q1 2010/11
Cases		0
Rate	0.4	0.00

Trillium-West Toronto	Target	Q1 2010/11
Cases		0
Rate	0.4	0.00

What is Trillium Health Centre doing to prevent VRE?

Trillium's comprehensive VRE Prevention Program includes:

- Testing high risk in-patients for VRE
- Placing VRE positive patients on Contact Precautions
- As appropriate treat VRE patients with medication
- Adherence to hand hygiene protocols
- Education for patient and visitors regarding Contact Precautions and hand hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning of the equipment and the environment.

What can patients and their families do to help reduce their chances of infection?

Patients and visitors can help reduce the spread of infection by performing proper hand hygiene. Hand sanitizer is conveniently located throughout the hospital. For more information please read about the Clean Hands Protect Lives campaign at www.oha.com/cleanhandsprotectlives.

What is Trillium Health Centre doing to improve patient safety?

At Trillium Health Centre, we are always looking at how we are performing and use different *performance indicators* to get a sense of where we excel and where improvements could be made. This information is essential to Trillium's commitment to providing quality and safe care for its patients.

Our Board of Directors and Management Team believe it is important that the community we care for has access to this performance information. Trillium strongly supports the provincial government's new public reporting regime because we believe it will inspire improved performance, enhance patient safety, and strengthen the public's confidence in Ontario's hospitals.