

## What is Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP)?

For the purposes of public reporting, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) defines Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) as a pneumonia (lung infection caused by bacteria) occurring in patients in an intensive care unit (ICU), requiring external mechanical breathing support (a ventilator) intermittently or continuously, through a breathing tube for more than 48 hours.

VAP can develop in patients for many reasons. Machine assisted breathing suppresses a patient's normal coughing, yawning, and deep breath reflexes. This may be combined with a depressed immune system, making them more vulnerable to infections, like pneumonia. It is treated with antibiotics.

## How is the VAP calculated?

$$\frac{\text{total \# of ICU cases of VAP after 48 hours of mechanical ventilation}}{\text{total \# of ventilator days for ICU patients 18 years and older}} \times 1000$$

## Trillium Health Centre's VAP Data

	September 30, 2009
Ventilator Associated Pneumonia	3.43

## What is Trillium Health Centre doing to prevent VAP

Trillium Health Centre is compliant with the four evidence-based elements of the VAP bundle representing best practices as recommended by Safer Healthcare Now (SHN), including:

1. Elevation of the head of the patient's bed to between 30 and 45 degrees
2. Use of EVAC tubes (specialty endotracheal tubes) for the drainage of subglottic secretions
3. Daily sedation interruption and spontaneous breathing trials to assess readiness to extubate
4. Use of oral versus nasal tubes for access to the trachea or stomach

## 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.

For more information on Trillium Health Centre's quality initiatives, please visit: [http://www.trilliumhealthcentre.org/quality\\_safe\\_care/QualityInitiatives.html](http://www.trilliumhealthcentre.org/quality_safe_care/QualityInitiatives.html)

## 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 hand hygiene when hands become soiled, and before and after entering a patient's room. Hand sanitizer is conveniently located throughout the hospital. For more information about the importance of good hand hygiene practices, please read about the Clean Hands Protect Lives campaign at [www.oha.com/cleanhandsprotectlives](http://www.oha.com/cleanhandsprotectlives).

For more information on patient safety initiatives visit [www.ontario.ca/patientsafety](http://www.ontario.ca/patientsafety), [www.ontario.ca/patientsafety](http://www.ontario.ca/patientsafety), [www.oha.com/patientsafetytips](http://www.oha.com/patientsafetytips), and [www.saferhealthcarenow.ca](http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca).