

Trillium-West Toronto	Q1 09/10	Q2 09/10	Q3 09/10
Number of new VRE cases	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 patient days	0.0	0.0	0.00
Trillium-Mississauga	Q1 09/10	Q2 09/10	Q3 09/10
Number of new VRE cases	0	<5	<5
Rate per 1000 patient days	0.0	0.02	0.02

**Trillium's goal is to reduce the number of VRE hospital acquired infections including bloodstream infections.**

**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.

**Hand hygiene remains the single most effective measure to reduce health care associated infections.**

Trillium is launching the provincial hand hygiene campaign Just Clean Your Hands throughout the hospital in 2009, in conjunction with the Ontario Hospital Associations campaign Clean Hands Protect Lives.

**For more information:**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is reporting all Ontario hospitals' VRE information at [www.ontario.ca/patientsafety](http://www.ontario.ca/patientsafety).

To contact Trillium Health Centre:

[publicrelations@thc.on.ca](mailto:publicrelations@thc.on.ca)

### **Bloodstream Infections**

Trillium is providing statistics on hospital acquired Vancomycin Resistant enterococci (VRE) bloodstream infections to the public as a patient safety indicator. Sometimes VRE can cause infections in our blood. This can lead to serious outcomes for patients if not treated appropriately.

### **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 (anterior urethra, vagina), skin, oropharynx and/or bile, and also are often found in the environment. These bacteria are a common cause of health care associated infection, and may colonize 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 have become resistant to this drug and thus are called Vancomycin-resistant enterococci.

### **What is VRE Colonization?**

Sometimes bacteria are present on our bodies but do not cause any harm to our health. The patient is said to be colonized by the bacteria

### **What is a Hospital Acquired VRE Bloodstream Infection?**

Sometimes the VRE can get into our blood. This means it is making the patient sick. Hospital acquired infections mean the

patients were in hospital for more than 72 hours before they presented with symptoms of infection.

### **Who is at risk for VRE?**

Increased risk for acquiring VRE is related to the patient's own health and immune status, as well as the length of stay in a setting where they are exposed to VRE. Risk factors for VRE acquisition include invasive procedures, prior treatment with antibiotics, prolonged hospital stay, stay in an intensive care or burn unit, surgical wound infection and close proximity to a colonized patient.

### **How is VRE Spread?**

The single most important mode of transmission of VRE in a health care setting is by the hands of health care workers who acquire it from contact with colonized or infected patients, or after handling contaminated material or equipment. Hand hygiene and environmental cleaning are important measures to prevent spread.

### **What precautions are used to prevent the spread of VRE in the hospital?**

Patients who are at high risk of having VRE or have been found positive for VRE are placed on Contact Precautions. Patients may be moved to a more appropriate room and health care providers will wear gloves and gowns when providing direct patient care. Proper hand hygiene practices will be strictly adhered to. Patients and visitors are provided education on their own hand hygiene.