

VRE - Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci

At-a- Glance.

DEFINITION	<p>Enterococci are a type of bacteria that are normally present in the human intestines and the female genital tract. Enterococci can also be found in the environment i.e. soil and water. Occasionally enterococci cause infections in the urinary tract, bloodstream, or wounds. These infections can usually be treated with Amoxicillin, although some species may require treatment with Vancomycin. However, enterococci can develop resistance to Vancomycin. These are known as Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE).</p>
MANAGEMENT	<p>VRE bacteria are spread through contact; therefore 'contact precautions' should be put in place as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Hand Hygiene as per the WHO Five Moments • Use OUH approved contact precautions isolation sign. (See IPC intranet for guidance) • If a single room is not available, please discuss with Infection Prevention and Control for options • Aprons and gloves to be worn for all contact with patient and their surroundings. • Relatives and visitors do not need to wear PPE but be asked to perform hand hygiene before leaving the room and not visit other patient areas. • Explain the patient of their colonisation status and the need for isolation. • Ensure receiving area is aware of ESBL status. • Put used linen in a red alginate bag and then into the usual white plastic linen bag. • If a patient is transferred to another hospital inform staff and complete an inter-healthcare transfer form to send with the patient. Keep a copy for documentation.
CLEANING	<p>Dedicated equipment or single use equipment for their use. Clean re-usable equipment with Green Clinell wipes. Terminal cleaning is only required for the bed space or room where the patient has stayed for one or more nights as an inpatient. The patient is not required to go last on any procedure list.</p>
ISOLATION	<p>The patient will need to be isolated for the whole admission and future admissions, unless deescalated by the Infection Prevention and Control team.</p>

For further information or advice please contact Infection Prevention & Control on Bleep 1747 or out of hours contact Microbiology via Switchboard.

Infection Prevention & Control Service
December 2025