

VRE - Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci - At-a-Glance

Definition	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).
Management	VRE bacteria are spread through contact; therefore 'contact precautions' should be put in place. Patient should be isolated and contact precautions adhered to. If clinically indicated, appropriate antibiotic therapy should be commenced. Infection prevention is crucial to reduce risk of transmission. • Use the Trust Contact Precautions isolation sign (see IPC intranet for guidance) • The door must be closed • Hand Hygiene as per the WHO Five Moments • Aprons and gloves to be worn for all direct patient contact and contact with patient surroundings. (Relatives and visitors do not need to wear gloves and aprons but be asked to wash their hands before leaving the room and not visit other patient areas). • Inform the patient of their infectious status and explain why they are isolated • Ensure receiving area is aware of VRE status. If the patient is transferred to another hospital, inform staff, and complete an interhealthcare transfer form to send with the patient. Keep a copy for documentation.
Cleaning	Dedicated equipment or single use equipment for the individual patient concerned Clean re-usable equipment with green Clinell wipes. A terminal clean of the room is required when the patient is discharged from the room. All used linen must be treated as infectious i.e. placed in a red alginate bag then into a white bag for laundering.
When to stop isolation?	The patient will need to be isolated for their entire admission. For further information or advice please contact Infection Prevention & Control on Bleep 1747 or out of hours contact Microbiology via Switchboard.

