

Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci

What are Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE)?

Enterococci are bacteria that are commonly found in the bowels of most humans. There are many different species of enterococci, but only a few have the potential to cause infections in humans. More than 95% of infections due to enterococci are caused by just two species, *Enterococcus faecium* and *Enterococcus faecalis*.

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE) are enterococci that are resistant to antibiotics (vancomycin and teicoplanin), these belong to the Glycopeptide group of antibiotics. GRE were first detected in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1986 and have subsequently been found in many other countries.



How is VRE contracted?

Bacteria can be passed from one resident who is infected to another resident if infection control precautions are not being used effectively.

A resident may also have the bacteria living harmlessly in their gut and this can spread this bacteria to other areas of their body i.e wounds or urinary tract

Infection Control Advice

Your resident may have been screened during a hospital admission and found to be colonised /infected with VRE.

Some residents may need isolation; and it is advisable to contact the infection control team immediately for advice. Telephone – **01744 457 314**

All staff should comply with the World Health Organisation 5 moments for hand hygiene.

Patient should be nursed with standard infection control precautions

Patients should also be encouraged with regular hand hygiene, especially after using the toilet and before preparing/ eating food.

Care home staff should inform hospital staff if the resident is to be re-admitted to hospital at any point.

We have information leaflets available for residents and carers if required

REMEMBER: Bacteria can spread via hands, equipment and sometimes the environment.