

## Attention 7 Nephrology Staff

### Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) Outbreak

---

Due to increase in VRE on 7 Nephrology an outbreak has been declared. The following is in place:

- ❖ VRE Fact Sheets for staff/ patients are available on the intranet and internet [www.stjoes.ca/ipc](http://www.stjoes.ca/ipc)

#### Admissions & Transfers

- ❖ Patients with VRE are consolidated to one section of the unit
- ❖ Separation will be maintained between existing patients and new admissions
- ❖ Admissions and transfers require prior consultation with Infection Prevention & Control
- ❖ All patients transferred off the unit must be placed in Contact Precautions and screened for VRE (faecally stained rectal swab) weekly until 3 sets are negative. Notify receiving Unit.

#### Precautions / PPE / Equipment / Hand Hygiene

- ❖ Contact Precautions and Hand Hygiene are required for each VRE patient / VRE contact.
- ❖ **All PPE must be worn with each individual patient contact. Put on PPE just outside patient room before entering. Remove PPE and wash hands just inside door of patient room before leaving – mandatory**
- ❖ **Consult with Infection Control before discontinuing isolation**
- ❖ Soiled linen hampers must remain inside patient rooms
- ❖ Dedicate patient equipment for all patients in Contact Precautions.
- ❖ All mobile equipment that is used between any patients must be decontaminated after every use - **no exceptions**. Sani-Wipes are available for this purpose.
- ❖ If equipment must be shared, share VRE equipment with VRE positive patients only, rather than cross between clean and dirty
- ❖ If possible shower VRE positive patients daily with antibacterial soap. Clean after use.

#### Physicians, Residents, Interns, Allied Health:

- ❖ Visit patients moving from clean to contaminated, to dirty beginning with VRE negative, then VRE contacts, then VRE positive.

#### Hemodialysis:

- **Positive patients will be dialyzed in their rooms**
- Non isolated patients may go to Dialysis (7 Tower)
- VRE contacts may go to dialysis after the non isolated ones, must be isolated, and Dialysis room terminally cleaned after procedure

#### Visitors:

- ❖ Visitors must comply with Visit Policy and PPE of gown & gloves, diligent hand hygiene
- ❖ If visiting more than 1 patient, visit isolated patient last
- ❖ No Children will be permitted unless strictly controlled and required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) fits.

#### Screening of Patients

- ❖ Patients will be screened every Monday AM for VRE (faecally stained rectal swab)
- ❖ **All new admissions must be swabbed for VRE on admission-no exceptions**

#### Environmental Services

- ❖ ALL isolation rooms will be cleaned twice daily
- ❖ All isolation discharges will be double cleaned
- ❖ Nurse's stations, staff lounges and staff bathrooms will be cleaned once daily

#### Dietary Trays

- ❖ Dietary trays will be delivered by dietary staff as per usual routine

We will continue to monitor. The current precautions will be reviewed daily. VRE can be difficult to eradicate. Together we can accomplish this. Thank you for support. If you have any questions please contact us