VRE (Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus) Bacteremia: Rate per 1000 patient days

What is VRE?

Enterococci are bacteria that are commonly found in the bowel and genital tract of healthy individuals. As part of normal body flora, the bacteria can be present on or in the body without causing any symptoms or illness (colonization). Sometimes, the bacteria can cause an infection. Vancomycin is an antibiotic that is used to treat infections. When *Enterococci* become resistant to vancomycin, it is called Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE).

What are the symptoms of VRE infection?

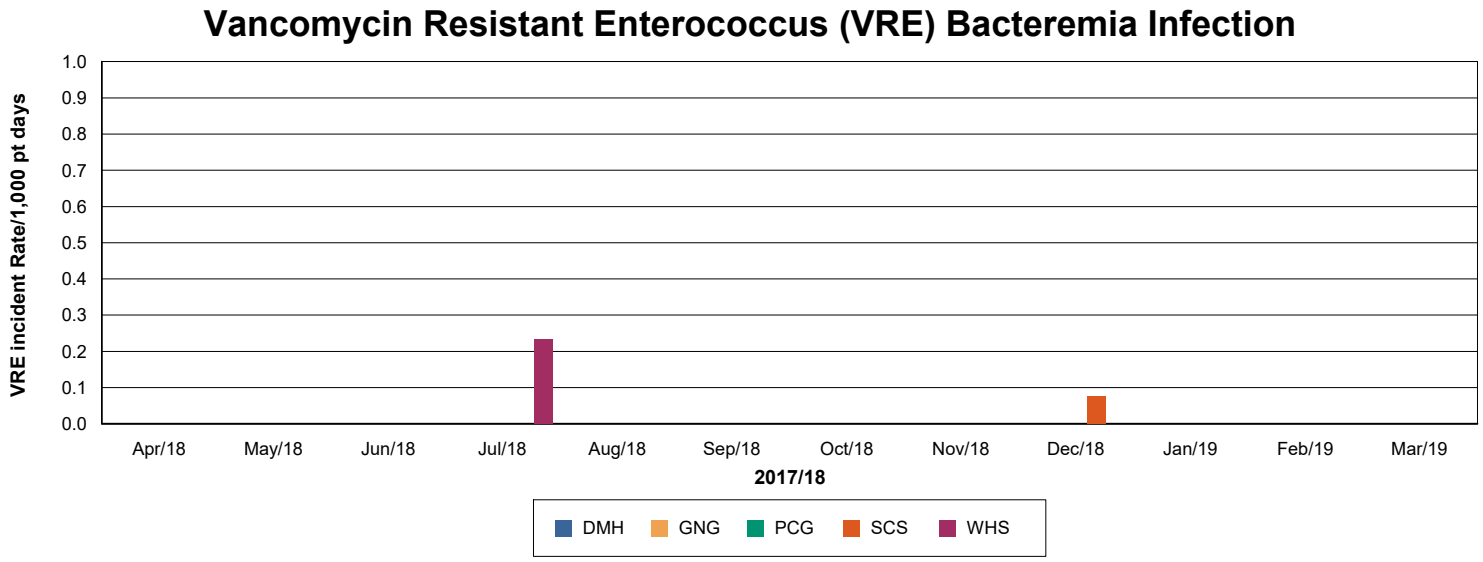
These bacteria can cause soft tissue infections (e.g. pressure ulcers, surgical wounds) to serious complications such as infection in the blood (bacteremia) or lungs (e.g. pneumonia) with symptoms such as fever, chills and shortness of breath. VRE infections are hard to treat requiring longer hospitalization and use of multiple antibiotics.

How does VRE spread in a health care setting?

VRE is spread through direct skin contact with a person that is colonized/infected with VRE, or indirect contact with surfaces contaminated with feces or body fluids with VRE. VRE is known to survive in the environment for weeks. VRE can then be spread by contaminated hands and environment, if not properly cleaned and disinfected.

VRE bacteremia Indicator

Niagara Health monitors the trend of healthcare-associated *VRE* bacteremia cases (expressed in rate/1000 patient days) and recommends strategies to prevent and control the spread of infections.



	2018/19											
	Apr	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**
DMH	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
GNG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
PCG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SCS	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.000
WHS	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.234	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000