

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

January - March 2011

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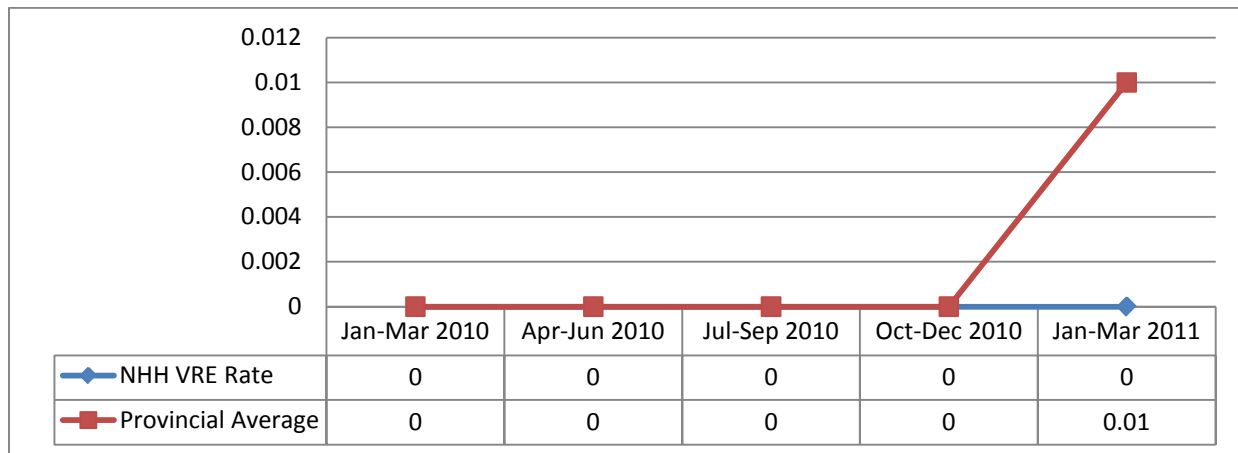
What is Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)?

Enterococci are bacteria found normally in the intestinal tract (bowels) of most individuals, and on high contact surfaces such as toilet seats, door handles and bedpans. Generally the bacteria do not cause harm, but sometimes they can lead to infection. Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) are strains of enterococci that are resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin. If a person has an infection caused by VRE, such as a urinary tract infection or blood infection, it may be more difficult to treat.

For more information on Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE), click [here](#).

NHH Rate of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

per 1,000 Patient Days



	Jan – Mar 2010	Apr – Jun 2010	Jul – Sep 2010	Oct – Dec 2010	Jan - Mar 2011
# New Cases, NHH	0	0	0	0	0

A case is a patient identified with laboratory confirmed bloodstream infections with VRE. A blood stream infection (bacteraemia) is defined by a single positive blood culture for VRE. VRE bacteraemia rates are determined by the number of patients newly diagnosed with hospital-acquired VRE bacteraemia, divided by the number of patient days in that month, multiplied by 1,000. Patient days are the number of days spent in a hospital for all patients. Hospitals reporting less than 5 cases are not permitted to give the specific number but, rather, report “less than 5 cases” to avoid inadvertently identifying specific patients. Hospitals with zero cases also report their status.