

Public Notice:

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

▪ **CDI & VRE outbreaks on A4 declared over**

No new cases of *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) have been identified since April 9. The CDI outbreak has been declared over.

No new cases of Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) were identified from two consecutive prevalence screens (swabbing all patients on unit for VRE). The VRE outbreak has been declared over.

Ongoing monitoring will continue on A4, with the following measures:

- All new admissions and internal transfers on and off the unit will be swabbed for antibiotic resistant organisms

As always, visitors are asked to fully comply with appropriate hand hygiene and infection prevention and control practices when visiting the hospital; it is mandatory and vital to reducing health care associated infections.

Background:

What is VRE?

Enterococci are germs that live in the gastrointestinal tract (bowels) of most individuals. Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE) are strains of *Enterococci* that are resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin. VRE bacteremia (bloodstream infections only) is reported on a quarterly basis. *Note that PRHC's VRE cases on A4 are not bacteremia.*

Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI):

C. diff is one of the many germs (bacteria) that can be found in stool (a bowel movement). CDI occurs when antibiotics kill your good bowel bacteria and allow the *C. diff* to grow. When *C. diff* grows, it produces a toxin that can damage the bowel and may cause diarrhea. CDI is usually mild but sometimes can be severe. CDI is reported publicly to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and on the hospital web site every month.

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