



# VRE

Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus

Fact Sheet

## What is VRE?

- *Enterococcus* is a normal bacteria that lives in everybody's bowel.
- It can sometimes cause bladder infections and on rare occasions more serious infections.
- When you are told you have VRE, this means that the *Enterococcus* is resistant to some antibiotics, so if you get an infection the doctor will need to use a different antibiotic to treat it.

## When you are in hospital...

- Staff will clean their hands before and after touching you.
- They will wear an apron and gloves.
- You may be moved to a single room if one is available.
- We will ask you to clean your hands often and especially before leaving your room and when returning to your room.
- You can continue to have visitors and have as much contact with them as you like. For example you can hug and kiss your children.
- You can leave your room if you feel well enough, but please don't visit other patients.

## When you are at home...

- You do not need to do anything special or different.
- You can share things like plates, cups, sheets and towels as normal.
- You can continue to visit and be visited by friends and family.
- You are free to go wherever you want to go.

## Who do I tell?

- Your treating doctor or your community nurse
- The nurses or doctors in the hospital when you are admitted

## Where do I get more information?

### Infection Prevention & Control team

Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Sydney

Telephone: 9382 2519 or 9382 2083