

Table VI. Major infection control measures for the prevention of vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE)

MEASURES	COMMENTS
Hand hygiene	Hand hygiene is a critical issue. The two recognized techniques for hand hygiene are hand washing with soap and water and hand rubbing with alcohol-based hand-rub formulations. It should be performed immediately before and after touching a patient or touching objects located in the patient's room
Contact/barrier precautions	e.g. use of gloves and gown properly
Source control	e.g. reduce the skin colonization by bathing the patient with antiseptic agents
Cohorting of patients / healthcare workers	e.g. cohorting of colonized/infected patients and healthcare workers such as nursing staff; use private rooms when possible
Surveillances studies for detecting colonization	Active surveillance cultures to identify carriers is a controversial issue. It has been proposed for high risk patients, but some legislation has introduced active surveillance cultures for all hospitalized patients
Prudent use of antibiotics	Antibiotics should be administered prudently to avoid selective pressure and emergence of resistant organisms
Environmental cleaning	Hospitals should implement programs for optimizing cleaning of high touch surfaces and medical equipment