

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé  
et Soins de longue durée



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October 16, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

### NEW INFORMATION

In keeping with the requirement for hospitals to report MRSA and VRE in December, attached are

- the data elements, case definition, and reporting requirements for MRSA and VRE
- supporting materials, including Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) best practice documents

Information related to HSMR will be forwarded in the near future.

The ministry will be posting information on MRSA, VRE and HSMR to its web site on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

I want to thank all hospital CEOs and Board Chairs for supporting the government's patient safety agenda, particularly the first public reporting of Clostridium difficile associated disease (CDAD) rates on September 26<sup>th</sup>. As I write, the data for the second month of CDAD reporting is being entered by hospitals. Following last month's practice, the data will be reviewed by the ministry, the ministry will contact hospitals where there are data issues, and the data will be forwarded through the OHA to all hospitals for vetting.

Details related to the reporting of MRSA and VRE are contained in the attached letter from John McKinley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Information Management and Investment. Reporting will be focused on **Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE-Bacteraemia)** case counts and rates and on **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA-Bacteraemia)** case counts and rates, on a quarterly basis.

Hospitals are required to report data for September, October and November to the ministry by December 15<sup>th</sup> through the WERS system. The ministry will post the data on its web site on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Hospitals are asked to post on the same day. The ministry will use <5 for hospital case counts between 1 and 4. The ministry recommends that hospitals consult with their privacy advisors regarding the disclosure of numbers between 1 and 4. As with CDAD

reporting, the confidential listing of MRSA and VRE data by hospital will be forwarded to the hospitals on the week of December 22<sup>nd</sup> for vetting. Questions or further clarification related to reporting details should be directed to Sten Ardal, Director Health Analytics, Health System Information Management and Investment , at 416-327-6483.

I recommend that hospital CEOs, chairs and Infection Control Practitioners consult the following documents for information related to MRSA/VRE management.

1. Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control of Resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Enterococci in all Health Care Settings. March 2007. Ministry of Health and Long-term Care/Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC), Toronto, Canada.
2. Surveillance for Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Canadian Hospitals - A Report Update from the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program. Canada Communicable Disease Report. Volume 31-03 February 2005.

Hospitals may also contact their Regional Infection Control Network (RICN) and/or their local Medical Officer of Health for further information.

The Ontario Hospital Association will be coordinating a web cast on MRSA/VRE reporting in the near future and will work with all hospitals on media communications.

Information related to HSMR will be sent to you the near future.

Once again, thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at michael.baker@uhn.on.ca if you have any questions, wish to discuss these issues further or have suggestions for the future of the Patient Safety Initiative.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Michael Baker M.D.  
Executive Lead – Patient Safety

cc: Hon. David Caplan, MPP  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Ron Sapsford  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care