

Table V. Major Risk Factors for Vancomycin - resistant Enterococci (VRE)

RISK FACTORS	COMMENTS
Patients characteristics and site of care	Debilited patients often with serious underlying diseases such as malignancies, transplant recipients and dialysis; use of invasive devises such as intravascular and urinary catheters; hospitalized patients with prolonged hospital stay or admission to ICUs; admission to long-term care facilities
Prior antibiotics	Antibiotics may change the normal bowel flora and promote emergence of resistant organisms. Colonization with VRE has been associated with prior antibiotics such as vancomycin, cephalosporins, antianaerobic drugs or quinolones
Colonization pressure	The risk of a patient to be colonized with VRE is correlated with the number of VRE carriers in the hospital unit
Environmental contamination	Outbreaks of VRE has been associated with contaminated surfaces such as beside tables and bedrails or medical equipment such as thermometers and EKG leads