



## Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

**Date:** June 15, 2016  
**To:** All Manitoba Physicians and Healthcare Staff served by DSM Microbiology Laboratories  
**From:** Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director, and Joelle Carlson, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology Discipline, Diagnostic Services Manitoba

 

**Re:** Availability of surveillance/screening cultures (e.g., rectal swabs) to detect Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) for pre-transplant patients and for patients being transferred to out-of-province hospitals with pre-screening requirements

### TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Routine surveillance/screening cultures for the detection of Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) were discontinued across Manitoba in early 2016. However, surveillance/screening cultures for VRE are still available at a DSM laboratory for specific patient groups upon request (i.e., pre-transplant patients and for patients being transferred to out-of-province hospitals with pre-screening requirements).

Please contact the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at St. Boniface Hospital (204-237-2484) or a Microbiologist at your site before ordering surveillance/screening cultures for the detection of Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) as the agar media used to perform this test must be ordered in from our supplier (this generally requires 1-2 days advanced notice).

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. James Karlowsky at 204-237-2105 or Joelle Carlson at 204-237-2073.