	<p>NHS GREATER GLASGOW &amp; CLYDE BOARD INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE</p>	Effective From	May 2026
	<p><b>VANCOMYCIN RESISTANT ENTEROCOCCI (VRE)</b> <b>AIDE MEMOIRE</b></p>	Review Date	May 2028
		Version	1
<p>The most up-to-date version of this document can be viewed at the following web page:  <a href="http://www.nhsggc.scot/hospitals-services/services-a-to-z/infection-prevention-and-control">www.nhsggc.scot/hospitals-services/services-a-to-z/infection-prevention-and-control</a></p>			

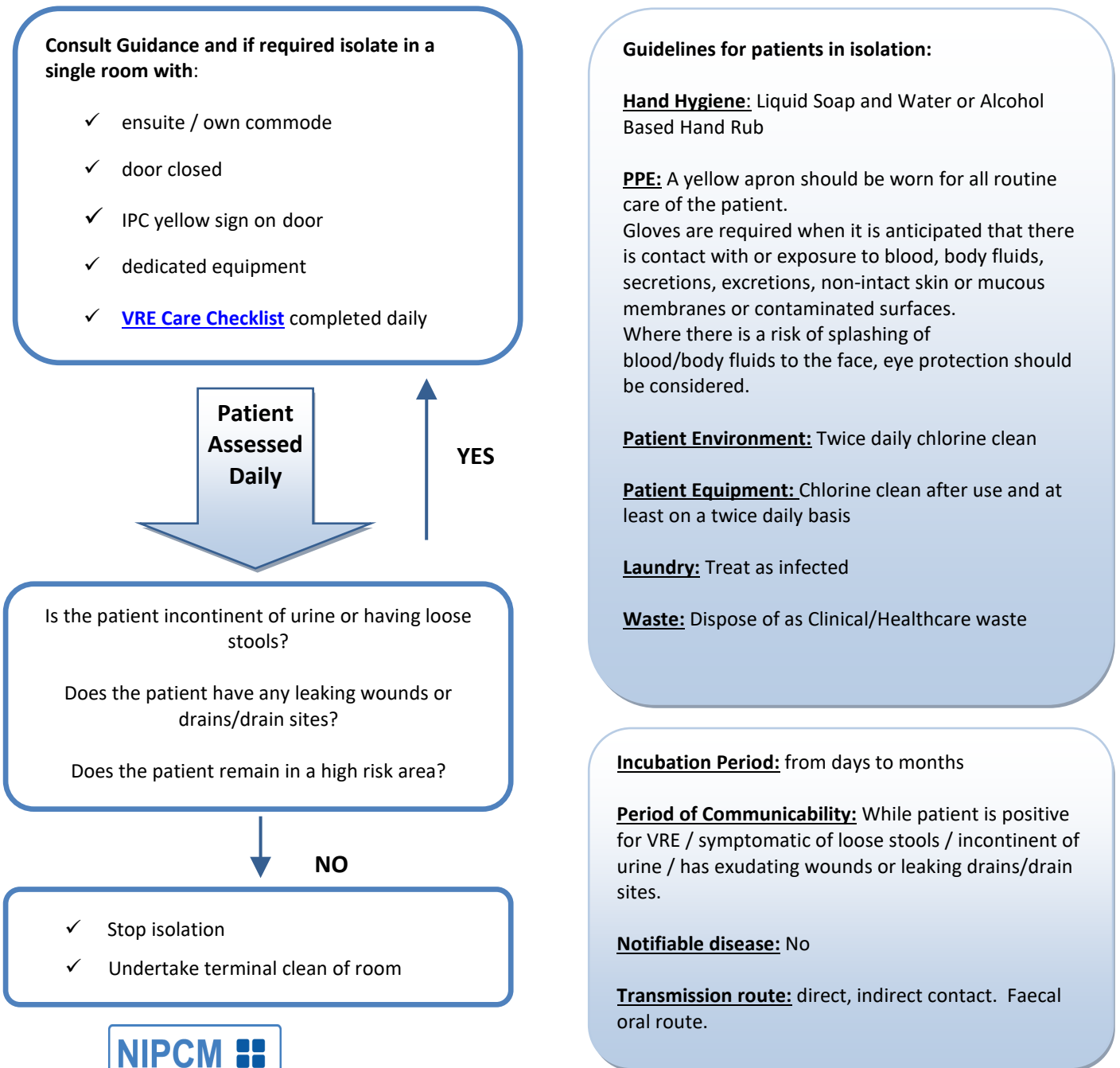
VRE Aide Memoire


This aide memoire should be used for “at risk patients” including:

Patients being cared for in high-risk clinical areas, such as: Intensive Care Units (ICU), Renal Units, High Dependency Units (HDU) and Haemato-oncology units

**AND**

All inpatients who are: symptomatic with loose stools, incontinent of urine, have a drain in situ or a drain or have leaking or non-intact wounds



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### Additional Information

<b>Clinical Condition</b>	<p>Enterococci are a group of gram-positive bacteria that are naturally present in the human intestine. Although normally harmless they may cause bacteraemia, urinary tract infection, wound and surgical site infection. Most infections are due to <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> and <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>.</p> <p>Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) are enterococci that are resistant to the antibiotic Vancomycin making them more difficult to treat.</p> <p>Patients may be colonised in their gut, urine, wound or invasive devices sites without signs of infection.</p>
<b>Mode of Spread</b>	<p><b>Direct contact transmission</b> Spread of infectious agents from one individual to another by direct skin-to-skin contact.</p> <p><b>Indirect contact transmission</b> The spread of infectious agents from one person to another via a contaminated object.</p>
<b>Patient Information</b>	<p>The clinical team with overall responsibility for the patient must inform the patient and provide written information on VRE to the patient and any persons caring for the patient, e.g. parent, carer/ next-of-kin (as appropriate).</p> <p><a href="#">VRE Patient Information Leaflet</a></p>
<b>Period of communicability</b>	<p>As long as the organism is isolated from a wound/ site which has not healed or patient has loose stools or is incontinent of urine if VRE detected in urine.</p> <p>Some specialist areas e.g. Renal medicine may continue to isolate asymptomatic patients.</p>
<b>Precautions required until</b>	<p>Please contact your local IPCT for advice on when/if transmission based precautions can be discontinued.</p>
<b>Specimens required</b>	<p>A stool specimen if the patient is symptomatic of loose stools. The IPCT may request other sites such as: wound, urine, rectal swab or any other vulnerable sites.</p>
<b>Visitors</b>	<p>Visitors are not required to wear aprons and gloves unless they are participating in patient care. They should be advised to clean their hands on leaving the room / patient.</p>