

Update on cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci cases in Kowloon Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) carrier cases, the spokesperson for Kowloon Hospital (KH) gave the following update today (May 13):

Due to VRE cases found earlier in a rehabilitation ward, the hospital commenced whole block screening in the Rehabilitation Building. Twenty in-patients (aged 69 to 99) in four rehabilitation and medical extended care wards were confirmed as carriers of VRE. A 78-year-old patient had been discharged earlier and a 74-year-old patient was transferred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for further treatment of underlying diseases. The other patients are asymptomatic and are being treated under isolation in KH with stable condition.

The wards concerned have adopted the following enhanced infection control measures:

1. Thorough cleansing and disinfection of the wards concerned;
2. Enhanced admission screening for patients and environmental screening procedures;
3. Enhanced attention to contamination-prone procedures; and
4. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients.

KH will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward and the patients. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.