



Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

Date: April 28, 2014

To: Healthcare Staff served by DSM Clinical Microbiology Laboratories

From: Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director, and Shirley Hoban, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology Discipline, Diagnostic Services Manitoba

Jon Karlowsky *Shirley Hoban*

Re: Collection of Specimens for Screening for Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) Colonization

In an effort to optimize the quality of specimens to screen for rectal colonization with VRE, please see the following comments:

- All rectal swabs submitted for VRE testing must demonstrate fecal soiling. Rectal swabs lacking fecal material should not be submitted as these samples will be rejected by the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory.
- Perianal swabs for VRE screening are only acceptable for children and for bone marrow/leukemia patients (GD6 Health Sciences Centre). Perianal swabs collected from all other patients will be rejected by the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory.

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