

Letterkenny University Hospital - LUH Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy/Guidelines: Note Regarding Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)

- *Enterococcus faecium* is naturally resistant to many antimicrobial agents. Vancomycin is one of a limited number of agents available for treatment of serious infection with *Enterococcus faecium*. Gut colonisation with *E. faecium* that has acquired resistance to vancomycin is now very common in patients with extensive healthcare exposure.
- There is no antimicrobial treatment that has been shown to be useful in clearing gut colonisation with VRE. There is good reason to believe that giving antimicrobial treatment to colonised patients supports persistent colonisation.
- For patients with serious/life threatening infection who are at risk for VRE infection, empiric treatment with linezolid or daptomycin is generally indicated in addition to the other components of therapy recommended in this guideline. Discuss with Microbiology or as required.