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Point prevalence survey of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) in adult inpatients in a University teaching hospital in the United Kingdom

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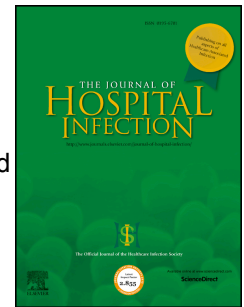
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**Title**

Point prevalence survey of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) in adult inpatients in a University teaching hospital in the United Kingdom.

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**Running title**

CPE/VRE carriage in university hospital

**Summary**

Infections with carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) are associated with increased morbidity and mortality, but the carriage rates of CRE and VRE among hospital inpatients is unknown. We conducted a point-prevalence survey to determine CPE and VRE carriage rates in hospitalised adults. 818/960 (85.2%) adult inpatients were invited to participate in the study. 595/818 (72.7%) consented and provided specimens. Of 540 samples tested, none were positive for CPE. 130/540 (24.1%) samples were VRE positive; 34/40 (85%) of wards had cases. Universal screening for CPE may not be cost-effective in low-prevalence settings, but targeted screening of high-risk patients should continue. The optimal screening strategy for VRE remains to be determined, as universal screening and isolation is not feasible in our setting.

**Keywords**

CPE, VRE, surveillance, carriage, prevalence

**Introduction**

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