

Infection facts

- √ 30% to 50% of hospital-acquired infections are preventable and these infections are the fourth largest killer in Canada (1).
- ✓ Nosocomial infections in hospitals can cost more than US\$ 40,000 per case, not including expenses for cleaning areas and materials in contact with the infection (2).
- ✓ Some studies comment that healthcare workers' equipment was contaminated two-thirds of the time when examining a patient who was colonized or infected with nosocomial VRE (spread infection) (3).
- Zoutman et. al, "The state of infection surveillance and control at Canadian acute care hospital" American Journal of Infection Control, 2003:31, 266-275.
- Farr, Barry (2002). "Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections", Business Briefing: Global Healthcare Issue 3, pg. 37-41.

- ✓ A large majority of colonized patients are not detected (2).
- ✓ The Public Health Agency of Canada has reported about the yearly rate increment in Nosocomial infections for Canadian Hospitals in a range from 0% to 20% in a 5 year period (from 1995 to 2000), and in Ontario new cases of MRSA had increased 20 fold between 1994 and 2000 (4).
- ✓ Total cost for a MRSA infection in a large Canadian hospital has been estimated at \$14,360, which projects to an annual cost of \$262,554 per facility and from \$41.7 to \$58.7 million total annual cost in Canada (4).
- (3) Zachary, K., Bayne, P., Morrison, D., Ford, D., Silver, L. and Hooper, D. "Contamination of gowns, gloves, and stethoscopes with vancomycin-resistant enterococci", Infect. Control Hosp. Epidemiol., 22, 2001, pp. 560-564.
- (4) Public Health Agency of Canada. "Antimicrobial Resistance: A Deadly Burden No Country can Afford to Ignore", Sept 2003. Vol. 29-18.

