



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Clearance of vancomycin- resistance Enterococci (VRE) micro-alerts

Infection Prevention, Policy and Surveillance Unit

2 August 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND PEOPLE

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate at the Department of Health acknowledge the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands and language groups of Western Australia. We acknowledge the wisdom of Aboriginal Elders both past and present and pay respect to Aboriginal communities of today.

A clearance protocol for patients previously identified with vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) was introduced in Western Australian (WA) in April 2016 and endorsed by the WA Multi-resistant Organism (WAMRO) Expert Advisory Group and the Healthcare Infection Council of WA (HICWA).

Investigation for clearance of VRE is preferably conducted when the patient is admitted to hospital. Reasonable effort is to be made to identify the date of the patient's last VRE-positive specimen.

1. Private hospitals without access to the WA Health micro-alert system

- Contact ippsu@health.wa.gov.au to identify the date the micro-alert V was activated and if any further testing for VRE has been undertaken in the public sector.
- Check for positive VRE specimens, from the date activated to the date of the investigation, with the laboratory providing service to your hospital.
- Ask the patient or family if they have been admitted to any other healthcare facility (HCF) between the date activated and the date of the investigation. If yes, contact infection prevention and control (IPC) at that HCF regarding positive VRE specimens since activation date.
- Email details and send to ippsu@health.wa.gov.au
- The Infection Prevention Policy and Surveillance Unit (IPPSU) will contact the initiating hospital to arrange for the clearance of the micro-alert from the WA Health micro-alert system.

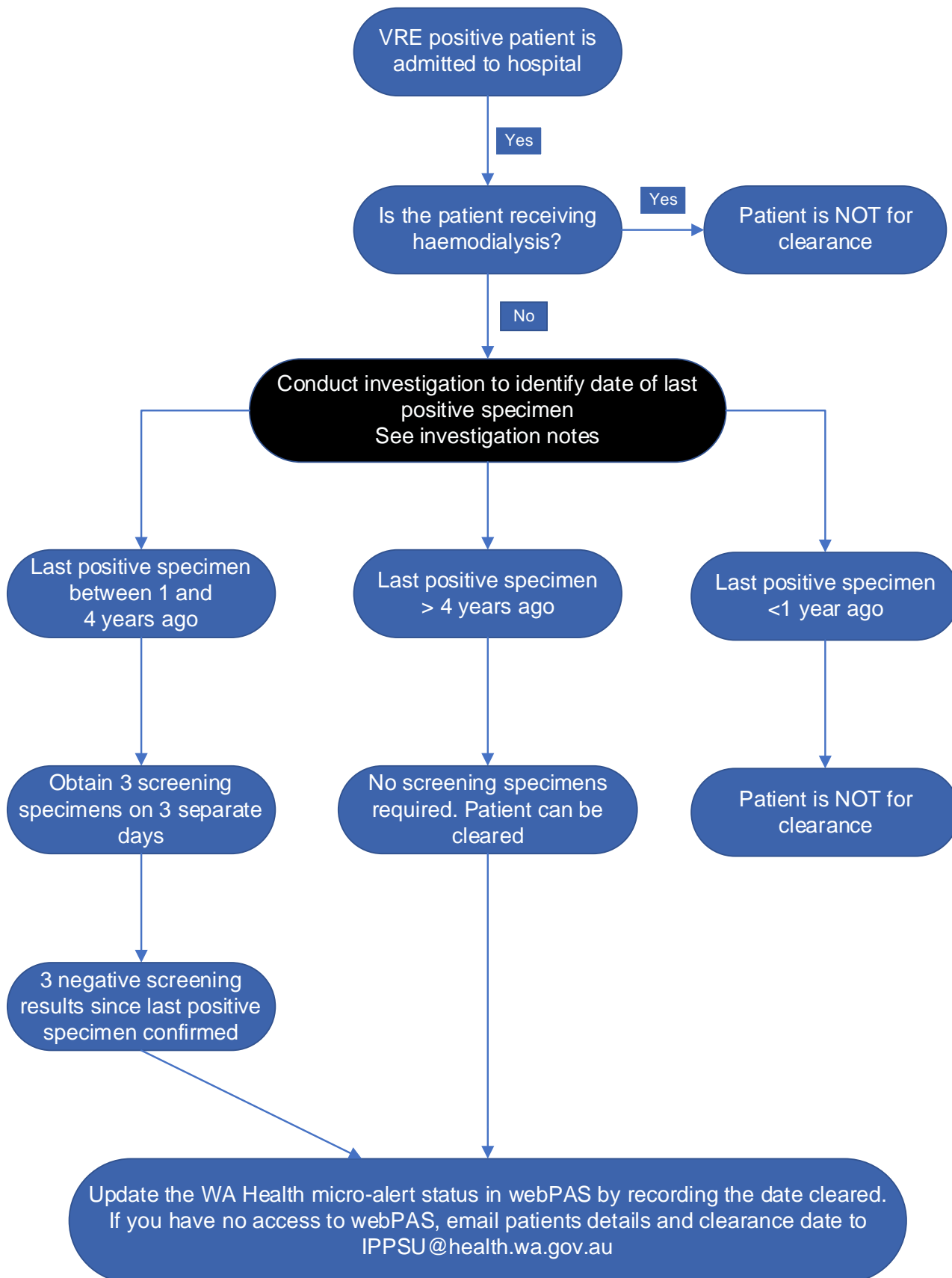
2. All WA public hospitals

- Identify the date the micro-alert V was activated. This can be viewed in ICNET in the 'TAGS' tab, in Alerts on webPAS, or the summary page of iSOFT Clinical Manager.
- Conduct a search of laboratory results for positive specimen results from the date activated to the date of the investigation.
- Ask the patient or family if they have been admitted to any other private HCF between the date activated and the date of the investigation. If yes, contact IPC at that HCF regarding positive VRE specimens since activation.
- WA public hospital IPC staff can update the micro-alert system in webPAS by recording the **Date Cleared**. You are not required to notify the hospital that initiated the alert and you do not have to notify the IPPSU.

3. Clearance on the micro-alert system

- Only IPC personnel trained to update the micro-alert system in webPAS are to clear micro-alerts.
- Changes to micro-alert status can only be made in webPAS.
- The **Date Cleared** is to be entered and this can be viewed on the Update page in webPAS.
- ICNET data is automatically updated from the webPAS interface.
- VRE alerts are never to be made 'inactive' or deleted on the micro-alert system. There are no criteria for the use of the 'inactive' status and no requirement for a micro-alert to be made inactive before a clearance date is entered. Micro-alerts are only to be deleted if entered in error e.g. wrong patient or laboratory confirms non-VRE.

4. Flow chart for VRE clearance



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