



Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) – *Frequently Asked Questions*

What is VAP?

VAP is defined as pneumonia (a serious lung infection) that can occur in patients (specifically ICU patients) who need assistance breathing with a mechanical ventilator for at least 48 hours.

What is being reported?

All hospitals with ICUs that are reporting into the Critical Care Information System (CCIS) must publicly report their cases of VAP.

These “eligible” hospitals are reporting cases of ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP), which, for public reporting purposes, is defined as a pneumonia occurring in patients in the ICU requiring, intermittently or continuously, mechanical ventilation through either a tracheostomy or endotracheal tube for more than 48 hours.

Why are hospitals publicly reporting the VAP indicator?

As part of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s new public reporting of patient safety indicators initiative, eligible hospitals are legally required to post their VAP rates. This is a good thing for our hospital. The public reporting on patient safety indicators is about inspiring improved performance, enhancing patient safety, and strengthening the public’s confidence in Ontario’s hospitals.

Ultimately, reducing the incidence of VAP will help improve patient care and safety, decrease ICU and hospital lengths of stay, and improve access to the system.

Hand hygiene: everyone’s responsibility

Good hand hygiene is the single-most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Healthcare staff, physicians, volunteers, patients, and visitors ALL have a role in maintaining a healthy environment.



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