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To: Infectious Disease Physicians and
Infection Control Practitioners

From: Paul Granato, Ph.D.
Director of Microbiology

Date: April 9, 2013

RE: VISA Update

In early 2009, the Microbiology department at Laboratory Alliance of Central New York reported the first recovery of a vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA) in Central New York. Laboratory Alliance reported two more VISA isolates in February 2010 with no additional isolates detected until recently.

This brief notice serves to inform you that VISA has returned (hopefully only temporarily) to our area. From the end of January to the end of March, 2013, four VISA isolates were recovered of which two were from outpatients (wound and urine) and two were from patient blood specimens at different hospitals. Three isolates had vancomycin MICs of 4 mcg/ml and the other had an MIC of 6 mcg/ml.

Three of the four VISA isolates were methicillin resistant. Of particular interest was the VISA outpatient wound isolate that was methicillin susceptible. The antibiotic susceptibility results for all isolates were confirmed by the Wadsworth Center at the NYS-DOH.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-3036 or Mr. Russell Rawling, Manager of the Microbiology department at 410-7060, if you have any questions or concerns.