



# Sahlgrenska akademien

VID GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

The Committee of Internationalization, programme in Medicine

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2006/LD

To incoming exchange students

## Preventive action against MRSA and VRE

Since 2004, Infection caused by MRSA has been classified as a disease dangerous to public health in the Swedish Communicable Disease Act. The Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the Västra Götaland Region has therefore decided that all healthcare workers including incoming students from countries outside Scandinavia need to be screened for MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and VRE (vancomycin-resistant enterococci). The screening should be done as soon as possible after your arrival in Göteborg. Healthcare workers and students with skin lesions such as eczemas may not take part in nursing care until a negative culture is obtained.

Culture swabs will be taken from the nose, the throat and from possible skin lesions. The procedure can be done at the outpatient clinic at the Department of Infectious Disease. Please call 031-343 4281 for an appointment. The clinic is located at the Östra Hospital which is easy to reach by tram No 1.

Please note that the procedure also is applied for Swedish students who have been studying abroad. The cultures and further appointments due to culture results are free of charge.

Background and further information concerning the guidelines for control measures of MRSA can find at the website (in English):  
[http://www.infektionshygien.se/upload/SU/omrade\\_medot/labmed/baktlab/infektionshygien/mrsa\\_english.pdf](http://www.infektionshygien.se/upload/SU/omrade_medot/labmed/baktlab/infektionshygien/mrsa_english.pdf)

We are sincerely grateful for your understanding and co-operation.

For the Committee of Internationalization, Programme in Medicine  
at the Sahlgrenska Academy,

Leif Dotevall  
Infectious Disease Consultant  
MD, PhD, DTM&H