

284 records identified through
database searching

278 records after duplicates removed
and screened for possible inclusion

170 excluded after screening
of abstract and title (inclusion
criteria not met)

108 full-text articles
assessed for eligibility

95 excluded
39 had missing data
50 were studies of
general screening for
infection or treatment
4 were decolonization
protocols
1 were case reports
1 unrelated to VRE
colonization

13 studies assessing the
duration of VRE
colonization included in
quantitative synthesis
(meta-analysis)