

Bacterial Persistence on Hospital Surfaces

Type of bacterium	Duration of persistence (range)
Acinetobacter spp.	3 days to 5 months
Bordetella pertussis	3–5 days
Campylobacter jejuni	up to 6 days
Clostridium difficile (spores)	5 months
Chlamydia pneumoniae, C. trachomatis	≤ 30 hours
Chlamydia psittaci	15 days
Corynebacterium diphtheriae	7 days–6 months
Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis	1–8 days
Escherichia coli	1.5 hours–16 months
Enterococcus spp. Including VRE and VSE	5 days–4 months
Haemophilus influenzae	12 days
Helicobacter pylori	≤ 90 days
Klebsiella spp.	2 hours to > 30 months
Listeria spp.	1 day–months
Mycobacterium bovis	> 2 months
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	1 day–4 months
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	1–3 days
Proteus vulgaris	1–2 days
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	6 hours–16 months; on dry floor: 5 weeks
Salmonella typhi	6 hours–4 weeks
Salmonella typhimurium	10 days–4.2 years
Salmonella spp.	1 day
Serratia marcescens	3 days–2 months; on dry floor: 5 weeks
Shigella spp.	2 days–5 months
Staphylococcus aureus, including MRSA	7 days–7 months
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1–20 days
Streptococcus pyogenes	3 days–6.5 months
Vibrio cholerae	1–7 days

Kramer et al. BMC Infectious Diseases 2006. 6:130

