

# ABCD

**REDUCING THE RISK OF MRSA IS THIS SIMPLE.**  
(And can help prevent other infectious disease.)

## ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

Culture high-risk patients and, if positive, place them on contact precautions so that MRSA does not spread.

## BARRIER PRECAUTIONS

Gowns, gloves, and masks are available for patient, staff, and visitor transmission prevention. Please use them consistently.

## COMPULSIVE HAND WASHING

The easiest and most effective way to stop MRSA and other healthcare-associated infections from spreading.

## DISINFECTION OF ENVIRONMENTS

Thorough cleaning and appropriate use of products are absolutely necessary to reduce the transmission of MRSA.



**Stopping MRSA is in your hands.**



MRSA is a serious form of a common bacteria found on many healthy people. Because of its resistance to antibiotics commonly used in treatment, MRSA is one of the most widespread and problematic of Healthcare Associated Infections, which, collectively, are responsible for 90,000 deaths in American hospitals each year. However, stopping the spread of MRSA is as easy as ABCD. Following these guidelines will improve patient safety and save lives.

### AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PHYSICIANS AND CLINICAL STAFF

The HCA Quality, Safety, & Performance Improvement Department announces the enterprise-wide focus on eradicating the spread of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in HCA-affiliated facilities.

MRSA is a potentially deadly strain of common bacteria that frequently inhabits the skin or nostrils of healthy people. Because of its resistance to antibiotics commonly used in treatment, MRSA is among the most common and problematic of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI), which collectively are responsible for 90,000 deaths in American hospitals each year.

Fortunately, healthcare providers can prevent the spread of MRSA with hand hygiene along with other bundled components. HCA's "ABC" approach is based on published evidence demonstrating successful reduction of MRSA:

- A:** Active Surveillance—Culture high-risk patients and, if positive, place them on contact precautions so that MRSA does not spread.
- B:** Barrier Precautions—Gowns, gloves, and masks are available for patient, staff, and visitor transmission prevention.
- C:** Compulsive Hand Hygiene—The easiest and most effective way to stop MRSA and other healthcare-associated infections from spreading.
- D:** Disinfection/ Environmental Cleaning—Thorough cleaning and appropriate use of products are absolutely necessary to reduce the transmission of MRSA.
- E:** Executive Championship—Facility, division, and corporate support of clinicians' efforts.

The "ABC" approach will not only improve patient safety and save lives, but will also result in substantial cost savings. The results of this campaign will be actively measured, monitored, and reported. Successful strategies to reduce MRSA also reduce rates of other highly resistant HAIs, including Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) and Clostridium Difficile (C. diff) colitis.

The Atlas-based toolkit will be the primary ongoing source of information regarding the MRSA campaign. To access this information, use the Atlas keyword: MRSA. In addition, monthly MRSA collaborative calls for facility staff will be held beginning January 2007.

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