

MRSA Screening Practices in Continuing Care

Questions	Responses
What is MRSA?	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (or Staph) is a germ (bacteria) that can live on the skin and in the noses of some people. Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) is resistant to commonly used antibiotics. MRSA is one of the Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO).
Why has the recommendation changed to no longer routinely screen for MRSA among continuing care residents?	Evidence supports that there is no clear benefit for routine admission screening in the continuing care setting, therefore the focus should be an emphasis on routine practices, including point of care risk assessment, in continuing care settings. The change in approach to ARO admission screening practices allows the focus to be proactive, and for resources to be placed on a preventive approach.
What is routine practice?	These are the measures that help prevent the spread of infections; they should be used with every resident, every time, regardless of their diagnosis or infectious status. Some key components are: point of care risk assessment, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, environmental cleaning, cleaning/disinfecting shared items and waste/sharps handling. For more information refer to this resource: http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/routine-practices-info-sht-z0-rp-cc
Does this mean that all MRSA screening as has stopped?	This change in practice applies to routine screening. In the event of follow-up associated with MRSA cluster activity, please refer to your physician designate for further direction.
Has the management of continuing care residents who are positive with an ARO changed?	Management of individual residents known to already be colonized or infected with MRSA or other significant ARO remains unchanged.
Where can I find more information about managing AROs in continuing care?	For more information, please refer to this resource: http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/aro-additional-precautions-info-sht-z0-rm-cc



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