

Measure Information Form: Transmission of MRSA

Intervention(s): Reduce MRSA Infection

Definition: The percentage of patients in ICU(s) or other designated high-risk area who become colonized or infected with MRSA after admission

Goal: 0% by December 2008

Matches Existing Measures: N/A

CALCULATION DETAILS:

Numerator Definition: Number of patients in ICU(s) or other designated high-risk areas whose MRSA surveillance culture collected within 12 hours of admission was negative and who had a second culture collected in the ICU (including on discharge from the ICU) that was positive for MRSA

Numerator Exclusions: Same as denominator exclusions

Denominator Definition: Number of patients in ICU(s) or other designated high-risk areas whose MRSA surveillance culture collected within 12 hours of admission was negative

Denominator Exclusions:

- Patients admitted with a confirmed MRSA infection or whose admission surveillance culture was positive for MRSA during the calendar month

Measurement Period Length: Monthly

Definition of Terms:

Calculate as: (numerator / denominator)

Comments: Culturing patients to detect colonization on admission, and again weekly (e.g., all MRSA negative patients on a set day) and/or at discharge, allows the control team to document transmission in real time, determine the root cause of failure, and assess the success of the control effort in weeks or months rather than quarters or years. Including active surveillance cultures as part of a MRSA control program requires that hospital administrators make available sufficient microbiology laboratory resources for performing such cultures on an ongoing basis.

In some cases, a patient may be transferred out of the ICU or high-risk area abruptly or in the middle of the night, and staff may be unable to collect the culture at that time. An effort should be made to collect the culture on the transfer unit within one day of transfer.

The definition should be consistent when measuring over time.

COLLECTION STRATEGY:

See measure details and comments above.

Sampling Strategy:

If you are beginning this intervention within a pilot unit or units, limit your initial measurement to only those units. As you spread the implementation, expand your measurement accordingly.