

# MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to most antibiotics, including penicillin, amoxicillin, and oxacillin. A MRSA infection is more difficult to treat than other staph infections and may be sensitive to a very limited number of antibiotics.



Healthcare-associated MRSA  
(HA-MRSA)

Infections in those who have been recently hospitalized or have had a medical procedure.



Community-associated MRSA  
(CA-MRSA)

Infections in those who have not been hospitalized in the last year.

## What is staph?

Staphylococcus aureus, or staph, is a bacteria carried on the skin and nose of healthy people. Staph is one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States.

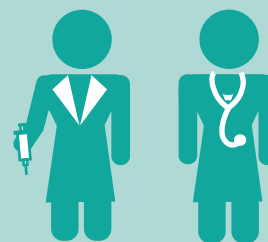
HA-MRSA infections are more common than CA-MRSA infections and are typically caused by different strains of bacteria. However, more cross-infections are now being seen.

## HOW DOES SOMEONE GET AND TREAT MRSA?

### WHO IS AT RISK FOR MRSA?

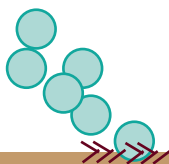
HA-MRSA occurs most frequently in people who have weakened immune systems, such as those in the ICU, on steroids, or with chronic diseases like diabetes. CA-MRSA occurs more commonly among populations living in close quarters, health club members, and military personnel.

Hospital workers are at a particularly high risk for MRSA. It is estimated that around 5% of health care workers have MRSA infections.



### WHAT DOES A MRSA INFECTION LOOK LIKE?

HA-MRSA infections can present as infections of chronic wounds, surgical wounds, the bloodstream, and pneumonia. MRSA infections can also appear as skin infections, like pimples and boils.



### HOW DO I GET MRSA?

MRSA can be transmitted through contact with your own nasal bacteria, with an infected person's sore, or contact with a carrier who has no visible symptoms. If there is any suspicion of infection, cultures of potential sources of infection should be taken (such as urine, sputum, wounds, blood, catheter tips). Any health care employee with MRSA, whether infected or a carrier of the bacteria, should be treated.

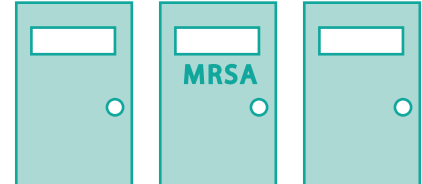
### HOW DO I TREAT MRSA?

Treatment involves using appropriate antibiotics depending on the strain. If there are any abscesses, they will be drained.

## HOW DO I PREVENT EXPOSURE?

### HOSPITALS SHOULD:

- Educate health care staff to reserve special antibiotics.
- Educate caregivers and housekeeping staff on preventing and controlling MRSA infections.
- Enforce handwashing, glove use, and sanitary technique.
- Change sites of IV needle infusions.
- Monitor hospital-acquired infections.
- Provide sinks or antibacterial soap/lotion dispensers near doors.
- Establish procedures for safe transport of MRSA patients.
- Use contact isolation precautions for: patients with draining pus or sputum; newborns known or suspected of having staph infections; patients found to be colonized with MRSA; patients being admitted who were previously positive for MRSA.
- Place patients on contact precautions in private rooms.
- Ensure adequate staffing.
- Use contact isolation precautions include using gloves and gowns before entering the room.
- Dedicate non-critical medical items to use on individual patients known to be infected or colonized with MRSA and keep these items in the patient's room.



This information is intended for general reference only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice.



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