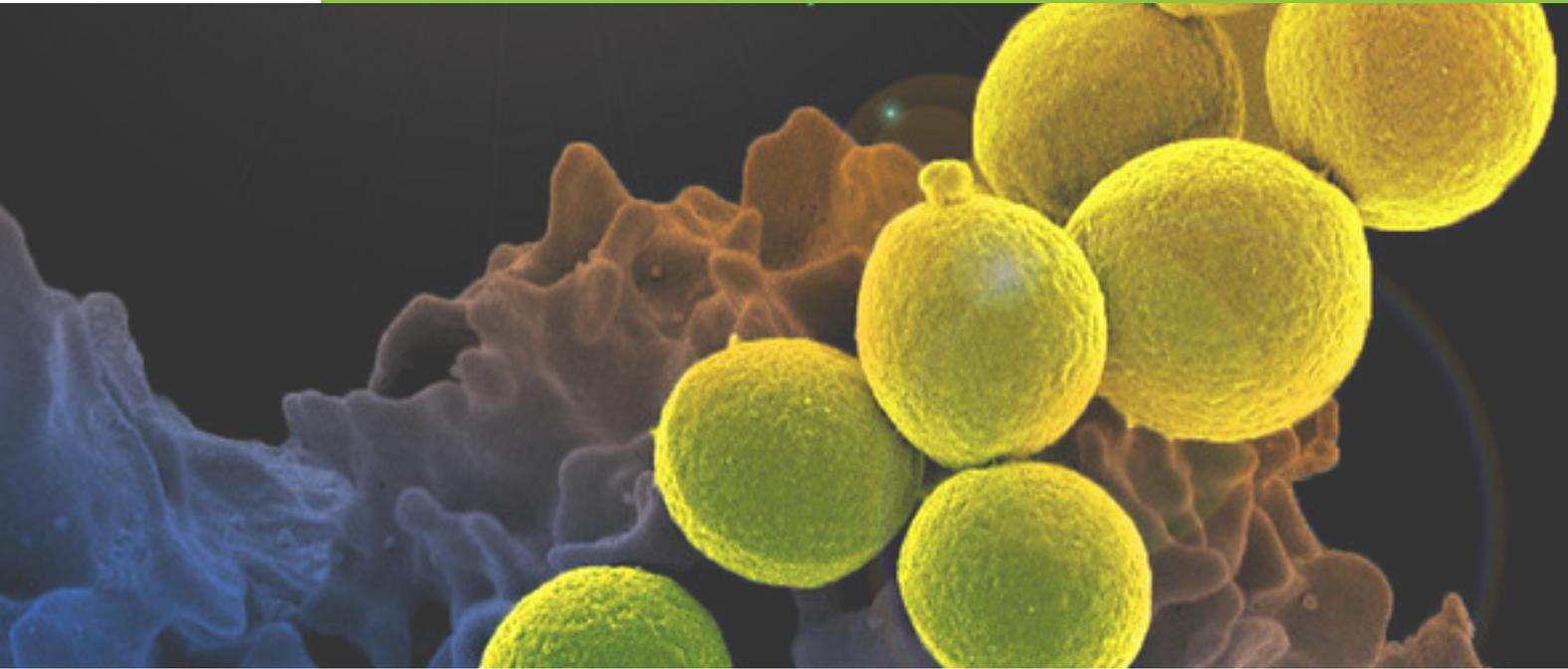




# Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*



## Did you know...

### STAPH

*Staphylococcus aureus* is a common bacterium that occurs on the skin or nose of about 1 in 3 people.<sup>1</sup> However, it can become resistant to antibiotics such as nafcillin or cephalosporins and can be associated with a range of infection types including soft tissue, bloodstream and sepsis.<sup>2</sup> For healthcare, it is of additional concern because *S. aureus* is a leading cause of Hospital-Acquired Infections.<sup>2</sup>

### MRSA

*Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is considered a **serious threat** by the CDC, which classifies different microbes by level of concern in regard to antibiotic resistance and other criteria. Among all antibiotic-resistant infections, MRSA is one of the most frequently occurring. If MRSA continues to develop more resistance or if the number of infections continues to climb, the CDC may reclassify MRSA to an **urgent threat**.<sup>2</sup> It is currently estimated in U.S. hospitals that 1 in 20 patients carry MRSA on the skin or nose.<sup>3</sup>

### PUBLIC HEALTH

MRSA is a concern to public health because it has been estimated that over 80,000 invasive infections and 11,000 deaths can be attributed to this bacteria annually. Even worse, severe infections appear to occur during or just after patients receive inpatient-level care.<sup>2</sup>

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

Depending on the type of infection, MRSA can increase the cost of care for Hospital-Acquired Infections significantly. If MRSA is involved with a surgical site infection, the cost rises from \$20,800 to \$42,000. If MRSA causes a central line-associated bloodstream infection, the cost can go from \$45,800 to \$58,500.<sup>4</sup>

For more information on *S. aureus*, MRSA and HAIs, visit [www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/organisms](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/organisms)

## What is the CDC doing to help?<sup>2</sup>

- Tracking MRSA and risk factors through two systems
  - **National Healthcare Safety Network**
  - **Emerging Infections Program**
- Providing outbreak support
- Developing prevention and testing recommendations
- Promoting improved antibiotic prescribing

## What can hospitals and administrators do?<sup>2</sup>

- Enforce CDC guidelines for prevention, detection, tracking and reporting
- Ensure laboratories can identify MRSA and quickly communicate or alert clinical staff as needed
- Learn about MRSA trends within their facility and the surrounding facilities
- Require communication regarding infection status, especially MRSA, during patient transfers
- Participate in or launch regional MRSA prevention efforts, encourage wise antibiotic use

## What can providers do?<sup>2</sup>

- Stay informed about drug-resistant cases in your hospital and patients
- Ask for immediate updates when your patients are identified by the lab as having a drug-resistant infection
- Protect other patients from these infections; adhere to infection control methods and precautions for each patient encounter
- During patient transfers, communicate to the receiving facility if your patient has a drug-resistant infection
- Temporary medical devices should be removed as soon as they are no longer needed
- Prescribe antibiotics wisely.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/healthcare](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/healthcare)



### CONTACT US

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