

Why Rapid is the Responsible Route

Preventing Infection and Transmission of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

Timing is everything, especially when it involves the quality of patient care.

MRSA can quickly and easily spread through direct contact with skin or with contaminated environments or equipment, resulting in serious health complications and potentially life-threatening infections. For these reasons, rapid detection of MRSA is critical to ensure the health and welfare of a hospital's staff and patient population.

The potential benefits of rapid identification of MRSA are:

A. Rapid identification of patients testing positive for MRSA colonization

- Immediate implementation of contact precautions and other preventive measures to minimize infection risk in both colonized and un-colonized patients
- Immediate patient isolation from the general un-colonized and un-infected hospital population
- Overall improved safety of patient care through "early warning" notice and adoption of additional preventive safety practices
- Administration of appropriate antimicrobials, if necessary, and appropriate environmental cleaning, as necessary
- Significant reductions in hospital-wide transmission of MRSA
- Cost avoidance related to avoiding MRSA infections that can range from approximately \$9,275¹ - \$35,367² per patient, depending on the type of severity of infection.

B. Rapid identification of non-MRSA colonized patients

- Avoidance of costs associated with pre-emptive isolation
- Ability to safely re-introduce patients into the general un-colonized and un-infected hospital population
- Avoidance of unnecessary antimicrobial administration, which may also contribute to the emergence of multiple drug-resistant organisms
- Avoidance of MRSA- and other healthcare-associated infection costs
- Early recognition ensures certainty and helps provide peace of mind for patients and hospital staff

Bottom Line:

Rapid Detection = Swift Action

The faster you identify MRSA, the quicker you can react to it, implementing treatment and preventive measures so you can better reduce and control MRSA-associated infections.

¹ Clancy, M., Graepler, A., Wilson, M., Douglas, I., Johnson, J., & Price, C.S. (2006). Active screening in high-risk units is an effective and cost-avoidant method to reduce the rate of methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* infection in the hospital. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 27(10), 1009-1017.

² Stone, P.W., Larson, E., & Kawar, L.N. (2002). A systematic audit of economic evidence linking nosocomial infections and infection control interventions: 1990-2000. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 30(3), 145-152.