

National Patient Safety Initiative: MRSA for Hospitals



Resources for better healthcare

Impact of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

MRSA is becoming more prevalent in healthcare settings. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, the proportion of infections that are antimicrobial resistant has been growing. In 1974, MRSA infections accounted for two percent of the total number of staph infections; the rate increased to 22 percent in 1995 and 63 percent in 2004. According to the latest *News and Numbers* from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), in 2005, one of every 20 (5 percent) of the roughly 368,600 patients treated for MRSA in U.S. hospitals died.

Project Background

As part of the National Patient Safety Initiative, CIMRO of Nebraska and other Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO) across the country will engage providers to address patient harm for which there is evidence of how to improve safety by improving healthcare processes and systems. CIMRO of Nebraska will bring together a select group of Nebraska hospitals to work collaboratively in building active surveillance programs for the prevention, identification and treatment of MRSA within their organizations.

Hospitals currently reporting to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network and those willing to report are eligible to participate. The goal of this initiative is to have hospitals report MRSA to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Multidrug-Resistant Organism (MDRO) module to reduce the infection and transmission rates of MRSA within the hospital.

CIMRO of Nebraska staff will train participating hospitals on the AHRQ TeamSTEPPS™ (Teams Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety), an evidence-based approach to improve communication and teamwork skills among healthcare professionals that will improve patient safety in their organization.

Expectations of Participating Hospitals

- Commitment by senior leadership of time, resources and guidance in the National Patient Safety Initiative to reduce the rates of healthcare-associated MRSA infections
- Build an Active Surveillance Program for the prevention, identification and treatment of MRSA
- Monitor MRSA-related data and report it to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) through its Multidrug-Resistant Organism (MDRO) module.
- Agree to share NHSN data with CIMRO of Nebraska
- Attend TeamSTEPPS and implement strategies and tools
- Participate in educational sessions, teleconferences and on-site meetings hosted by CIMRO of Nebraska

Role of CIMRO of Nebraska

- Conduct consultation visits with Infection Control Coordinator and Infection Control Committee to assess current strategies
- Provide tools, resources and technical assistance in implementing best practices related to MRSA prevention
- Provide TeamSTEPPS training for designated hospital staff
- Promote collaboration, sharing and problem solving among participating hospitals through conference calls and e-mail discussion
- Host educational training sessions via WebEx and teleconference

Questions? Contact a member of the CIMRO of Nebraska Patient Safety Team at 800-458-4262.