



November, 2008

Infection Prevention and Control of MRSA In Primary Care Settings – reducing the risk of transmission

Key points

- Drainage from MRSA infections are highly infectious and increase the risk of contaminating surfaces, items and hands with MRSA.
- Infections caused by community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) are typically purulent and discharging.
- MRSA is usually spread from person to person through direct skin to skin contact or contact with items of surfaces that are contaminated with MRSA.
- MRSA is commonly spread by healthcare workers via hands that are contaminated with MRSA.

Recommendations

Standard precautions should be utilised for ALL patients at ALL times irrespective of their known MRSA status.

- Ensure strict compliance with hand hygiene recommendations. Use an alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) or wash hands with soap and water when visibly soiled:
 - Before touching a patient
 - Before a procedure
 - After a procedure or exposure to blood / body fluids
 - After touching a patient
 - After touching the patients surrounds or equipment
- In the waiting area, ensure the patients wounds are covered with a dressing that contains any discharge. If leakage from wounds is evident, the patient should be moved to a separate area and the contaminated area cleaned with a detergent solution as soon as practicable.
- Wear gown and gloves for close physical contact of a patient with purulent, discharging wounds e.g. assessments, dressing changes.
- Dispose of used dressings promptly and directly into a bag or waste container.
- Apply skin antisepsis and allow to dry, prior to puncturing the skin for invasive procedures.
- All reusable patient care equipment must be reprocessed (i.e. cleaned, disinfected or sterilised) before use on another patient e.g. stethoscopes, glucometers, surgical instruments
- Ensure potentially contaminated environmental surfaces that are in contact with the patient are cleaned with detergent and warm water between patients e.g. examination table
- Change examination table sheets / pillow cases between patients.
- Maintain a routine daily cleaning schedule for all patient care areas.
- Ensure all toys used for children's play are washable and cleaned daily