



8200 DODGE STREET OMAHA, NE 68114

CLASSIFICATION: INFECTION CONTROL

POLICY NUMBER: IC.TEST.01

SUBJECT: METHICILLIN-RESISTANT
STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)
ERADICATION SCREENING

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/03

DATE REVIEWED: 9/00, 9/01, 10/03

DATE REVISED: 10/03

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POLICY STATEMENT

Any patient who has been identified with Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) will be considered colonized and isolated in Complete Precautions until eradication screening is negative and final. A series of three separate cultures must be negative for MRSA to consider the disease eradicated.

PURPOSE

To provide a consistent process for determining whether the MRSA colonization or infection has been eradicated in a previously diagnosed MRSA patient.

PROCEDURE

- I. The patient is responsible for the cost of MRSA screening. The cost of testing and sensitivities depends on the number of cultures and sensitivities required.
- II. Patient is to be off all antibiotics to which the organism is susceptible including topicals, for two weeks before and during the culture series.
- III. Culture a minimum of three body sites. The recommended site is nasal and any area with drainage and or sites previously positive for MRSA. Other sites may include perianal and axilla. The same three sites are to be used for each set.
- IV. Each set of cultures in the series should be repeated 3 separate times, starting the next set as soon as the previous set is negative and final. Do not order the second and third set of cultures unless the previous set is negative and final. If any cultures are positive for MRSA, cancel the remainder of the series.
- V. Order cultures in the SCM system as "Staphylococcus aureus screening for MRSA".
- VI. Cultures obtained at another facility must follow the above guidelines. Copies of the testing results are to be sent to Infection Control before isolation is discontinued.