

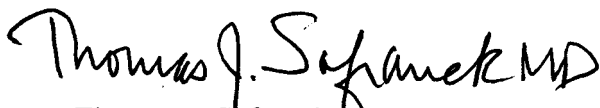
February 7, 2005

Dear Nebraska Infection Control Personnel,

Infections and colonization caused by antibiotic resistant organisms are an established and growing problem in our health care facilities. Infection control practitioners are increasingly challenged to devote time and resources to address this problem. To help address the many questions regarding the management of patients with multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), a task force of Nebraska Infection Control Professionals from the Greater Omaha Chapter of Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services developed the enclosed document. We are deeply grateful for the tremendous contribution of time and talent that these health care professionals listed on page three gave to this project.

This document incorporates the scientific findings from the medical literature and the consensus opinions from subject-matter experts. It updates findings and recommendations from two previous documents compiled and distributed by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System: Guidelines for the Control of MRSA (Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and Guidelines for Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus*. This revised document addresses both of these organisms, and in addition includes infection control measures applicable to other antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The task force expects the application of these best practices to control and hopefully reduce the spread of MDROs, to standardize care and to improve communication across the continuum of patient care. The guidelines are available online at www.goapic.org.

These guidelines are based on published best practices and the considered opinions of infection control practitioners and physician experts who deal with MDROs on a regular basis. However, they do not constitute official policy. Institutions may implement more stringent control measures as directed by their Infection Control Committee. We encourage all providers to become familiar with these guidelines and to apply the relevant policies and recommendations.



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