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**SUBJECT: MRSA/Multi-Drug Resistant Organism Active Surveillance**

**Purpose:** To meet the requirements of Senate Bill No. 1058 and to prevent contamination of non-colonized patients all inpatients are to be screened &/or cultured for MRSA &/or Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms prior to or upon inpatient admission if they meet established criteria.

**Policy:**

All inpatients that are high risk and those who are scheduled for inpatient surgery will be screened and/or cultured for MRSA.

**Procedure:**

- A. High-risk patients and all patients schedule for inpatient surgery will be screened for MRSA. The nurse completing the admission assessment will perform the screening. High risk criteria is defined as the following:
  1. Scheduled for Inpatient Surgery
  2. Previously discharged from an acute care hospital within the last 30 days prior to current hospital admission
  3. Admitted to Critical Care
  4. Inpatient Dialysis
  5. Resident of nursing home or chronic care facility
  6. Previous diagnosis of MRSA
  7. Open wound present
- B. Patients scheduled for surgery more than 72 hours prior to admission and those who have an open wound(s) will be screened for multi-drug resistant organisms with a standard culturette.
  1. Swab nares with routine culturette if screened a minimum of 72 hours prior to scheduled admission.
  2. Culture Open Wounds:
    - Clean and irrigate open wound with Normal Saline.
    - Culture only viable tissue. Do not culture necrotic tissue or purulent drainage
    - Gently insert swab into wound bed and rotate the swab at least 5 seconds.
- C. Patients, scheduled for surgery less than 72 hours prior to admission; who have previously been discharged from an acute care hospital within the last 30 days prior to current hospital admission; are being admitted to Critical Care; will be having inpatient dialysis; are a resident of nursing home or chronic care facility; and/or have had a previous diagnosis of MRSA will be screened with a MRSA nasal swab using GeneXpert Dx System which utilizes ((PNR) Polymerase Chain Reaction for DNA amplification and detection of MRSA.
  1. One Culture swab to be used on both nares
  2. Moisten swab with sterile saline
  3. Swab the anterior portion of the nares (be careful not to touch the outside of the nose)
  4. Insert swab ½-1 inch into nares, gently rotating swab clockwise, then counter-clockwise 2-5 times, and pressing gently into nasal septum.
  5. Return swab to the Culture medium bag, label and send to the laboratory.
- D. Pre-surgical patients will be tested by the Laboratory.
- E. If a pre-surgical patient tests positive for MRSA, the Laboratory will notify the physician. If an inpatient tests positive for MRSA the primary nurse will notify the physician. The physician shall inform the patient or the patient's representative immediately or as soon as possible.
- F. A patient who tests positive for MRSA infection shall, prior to discharge, receive oral and written instruction regarding aftercare and precautions to prevent the spread of the infection to others.
- G. A patient tested who shows evidence of increased risk of invasive MRSA shall again be tested for MRSA immediately prior to discharge from the facility.