



Measuring Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Women's College Hospital takes your care and your safety very seriously and we are extremely committed to transparency. On a quarterly basis, beginning in December, we will be reporting our infection rates on our website.

If you have any questions about the information below or about our hospital's infection prevention and control program, please contact Sonja Cobham, Infection Control Practitioner at 416-323-640 x3102.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) rates Women's College Hospital posts its infection rates online on a quarterly basis. On this website, you can find information about hospital-acquired infection rates for MRSA.

What is Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)?

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain or all types of the beta-lactam classes of antibiotics such as penicillins, penicillinase-resistant penicillins (e.g. cloxacillin) and cephalosporins.

What are the risk factors for MRSA?

Risk factors for MRSA acquisition include invasive procedures, prior treatment with antibiotics, prolonged hospital stay, stay in an intensive care or burn unit, surgical wound infection and close proximity to a colonized person. MRSA can also be transmitted from mother to child through breast milk.

How is MRSA transmitted?

The single most important mode of transmission of MRSA in a health care setting is via transiently colonized hands of health care workers who acquire it from contact with colonized or infected patients, or after handling contaminated material or equipment. The unrecognized colonized patient presents a particular risk for transmission to other patients.

MRSA can also be acquired in the community through contact with someone in the community who is positive with MRSA.

How is MRSA diagnosed?

If a patient is identified as having risk factors for acquisition of MRSA, a culture is obtained from the anterior nares, perianal area, any open lesions, wounds or exit sites of indwelling devices to determine if the patient is positive for MRSA.



Women's College Hospital

How is MRSA treated?

Treatment is at the discretion of the physician; however, patients that are positive for MRSA but are not infected with MRSA normally do not require treatment.

Patients that have a MRSA infection may be treated by their physician.

What precautions are used to prevent the spread of MRSA in the hospital?

We control the spread of MRSA through surveillance (identifying patients who are suspected of having MRSA and placing them in isolation), hand hygiene and environmental cleaning.

What Women's College Hospital is doing to improve patient safety?

Women's College Hospital is committed to the improvement of patient safety through staff education, patient education, surveillance, proper hand hygiene practices and environmental cleaning.