

You can prevent spreading an antibiotic resistant Staph skin infection to those you live with or others by following these steps.

1. Keep the infected area covered with clean, dry bandages. Pus from infected wounds is very infectious.
2. Wash your hand frequently with soap and warm water, especially after changing your bandages or touching the infected skin.
3. Regular wash linens and clothes that become soiled with hot water and bleach, when possible. Drying clothes in a hot dryer, rather than air-drying also helps kill bacteria in clothes.
4. Shower with dial soap or any other soap that contains Triclosan or Biguanide.



This brochure provides basic general information only, and is to be used as a guide, not as a complete resource on the subject....

If you have any further question, please ask your physician or call your local Department of Health Services.



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PACIFIC HOSPITAL OF LONG BEACH

COMMUNITY ACQUIRED STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS CA-MRSA



***Making your health care
Safer.***

WHAT IS CA- MRSA (Community Acquired Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)?

It is a strain of the bacteria Staphylococcus aureus (S.aureus), which has developed resistance to most of the antibiotics commonly used to treat the bacteria.

WHAT DOES RESISTANT MEANS?

It means that the bacterium in this case has developed the means to fight off the effects of antibiotics that are usually used to treat them.

IS MRSA TREATABLE?

Yes. Although MRSA is resistant to many antibiotics and often difficult to treat, a few antibiotics can still successfully cure MRSA infections.



WHAT IS A STAPH/CA-MRSA SKIN INFECTION?

Staph/CA-MRSA is often misdiagnosed as spider bites. Symptoms of the disease include redness, warmth, swelling, pus, tenderness of the skin, pimples, boils or blisters. Skin lesions may progress quickly from a skin or surface irritation to an abscess or serious skin infections. If left untreated, MRSA can infect blood and bones.



How MRSA is transmitted?

The bacteria are passed from person to person by physical contact, **and not through the air**. Poor hand washing practices and cross contamination will contribute to the spread of the bacteria in the hospital setting.

HOW THE TRANSMISSION OF MRSA IS PREVENTED?

In the hospital a patient with MRSA is placed on Contact Precaution. This practice alerts the hospital personnel to use specific barrier such as gloves, gowns or mask in order to prevent the spread of the pathogen. **Visitors and family members do not need to use masks or gowns or gloves upon entering the room unless they are helping in the care of the patient.**

Upon admission the patient will be cleaned with Triclosan and the hospital staff will be following strict hand washing, and patient hygiene procedures in compliance with hospital requirements.

The hospital Epidemiologist will be available to provide guidance and monitor the patient condition.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MYSELF OR MY FAMILY MEMBERS FROM GETTING INFECTED?

Wash your hand with soap and warm water.

Good hand washing techniques are practiced by following these steps:

- Use warm running water
- Apply soap.
- Lather and rub hands together, paying attention to finger tips, cuticles, and under nails.
- Spend at least 10 seconds lathering and washing your hands.
- Rinse thoroughly.
- Pat dry with a paper towel.
- Use the same paper towel to turn off the faucet (since your hands were dirty when turning on the faucet).
- Use any Alcohol-gel when a sink is not close to you, in order to eliminate the growth of bacteria on your skin.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A SKIN INFECTION?

If you think that you have a skin infection, consult your doctor or healthcare provider. Early treatment can help prevent the infection from getting worse. If you have a bad abscess, your healthcare provider should drain the pus. If you are prescribed antibiotics be sure to take all of your pills.