Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (https://www.ahrq.gov/)

Toolkit for MRSA Prevention in ICU & Non-ICU Settings

The Four Key Strategies of MRSA Prevention

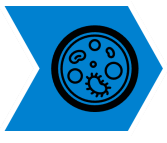
Previous Page (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/welcome.html)

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MRSA Prevention is a complex and multifaceted effort. This Toolkit highlights four key strategic areas where intervention and improvement can have the greatest impact in MRSA prevention. How you approach tackling these areas depends on what is right for your facility or unit.

Select this interactive graphic to explore more on each of the Four Key Strategies of MRSA Prevention.



Decolonize Patients (https://www.ahrq.gov#decolonize)



Decontaminate the Environment (https://www.ahrq.gov#decontaminate)



Prevent Person-Based Transmission (https://www.ahrq.gov#transmission)



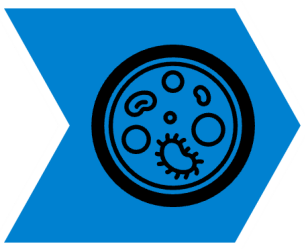
Prevent Device/Procedure Infections (https://www.ahrq.gov#device-infection)

Targeting MRSA

Importance of MRSA Prevention

While it is widely known that MRSA is undesirable, not everyone fully understands its impact. This section provides an overview of MRSA and the preventable harm it can cause, making the case for MRSA Prevention.

- **The Importance of MRSA Prevention (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/importance.html)**



Decolonize Patients

Decolonization is one of the most effective and impactful methods to prevent in MRSA. This toolkit includes tools, guides, and resources to assist in the implementation of decolonization in your unit or facility.

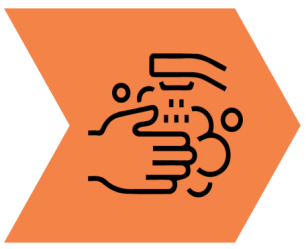
- **Decolonization (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/decolonize-patients.html)** : Learn more about **Decolonization**, including evidence and implementation, through educational materials..
- **Tools & Resources for Decolonization (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/tools-resources-decolonization.html)** : Access guides, protocols, training materials, and patient resources to assist setup and implementation of decolonization.
- **MRSA Surveillance (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/surveillance.html)** : Surveillance can be interrelated with decolonization, so it is included here as an adjunct topic.



Decontaminate the Environment

A contaminated patient environment is a primary pathways for transmission of MRSA. High-touch surfaces and fomites in the patient care settings can harbor MRSA and other pathogens, facilitating transmissions directly or indirectly between patients. Therefore, thorough **decontamination of the environment** is crucial for preventing transmission.

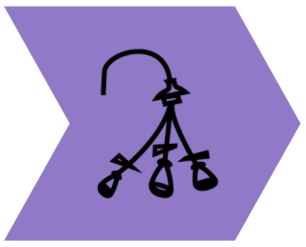
- **Environmental Cleaning (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/environmental-cleaning.html)** : Explore strategies to optimize and assess **Environmental Cleaning** for effective MRSA prevention.



Prevent Person-based Transmission

Healthcare personnel can inadvertently pick up MRSA from a patient or the patient care environment and transmit it to other patients, leading to colonization or infection. **Preventing person-based transmission** is hugely important to reducing HAIs and MDROs, including MRSA.

- **Contact Precautions (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/contact-precautions.html)** : Learn about utilizing **contact precautions** to prevent spread of HAIs.
- **Hand Hygiene Promotion (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/hand-hygiene.html)** : Explore strategies for effective implementation of **hand hygiene** policies.
- **MRSA Surveillance (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/surveillance.html)** : Review the latest evidence and recommendations for **MRSA surveillance**.



Prevent Device/Procedure Infections

Medical devices and procedures are often necessary and lifesaving, but they increase patients' risk of infection by MRSA and other HAIs. **Preventing device- and procedure-related infections** is crucial to lower this risk and prevent MRSA.

- **Prevention of CLABSI (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/clabsi.html)** : Learn effective strategies to prevent **Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI).**
- **Prevention of VAP & NV-HAP (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/vap.html)** : Learn effective strategies to prevent **Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)** and **Non-Ventilator Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia (NV-HAP).**

Fundamental Best Practices

These stewardship topics do not align with one specific strategic area, but instead represent vital best practices that underpin all the Four Key Strategies for MRSA Prevention. These topics have been highlighted separately as **fundamental best practices** to underscore their particular importance.

- **Antibiotic Stewardship (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/antibiotic-stewardship.html)** : Learn about developing and improving an **antibiotic stewardship** program.
- **Blood Culture Practices and Stewardship (https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/mrsa-prevention/toolkit/blood-culture.html)** : Learn strategies and best practices to optimize blood culture collection, reduce contamination, and improve diagnostic accuracy.

Page last reviewed October 2024

Page originally created October 2024