

Patient Safety Indicators



METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)

Staphylococcus Aureus is a bacterium that lives on the skin and mucous membranes of healthy people. When this bacteria becomes resistant to certain antibiotics it is called Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus or MRSA. MRSA is spread from one person to another by contact, usually by touching equipment or furniture contaminated by MRSA. MRSA can live on hands and on objects in the environment for days to months.

Hospital patients who are elderly or very ill are more susceptible to MRSA. Others who may be at more risk are people who have had frequent, long-term, or intensive use of antibiotics. MRSA does not usually pose a problem to healthy individuals.

Regular hand cleaning with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer is the best way to prevent the spread of MRSA.

Rates of New Hospital Acquired MRSA Infections at HHS

Cases

The number of new hospital acquired MRSA infections will be reported on a quarterly basis.

Infection Rate per 1,000 Patient Days

The MRSA infection rate is calculated as a rate per 1,000 patient days. The total patient days represents the sum of the number of days during which services were provided to all inpatients, over one year of age, during the given time period.

Rates in Smaller Facilities

The smaller the facility, the greater the rates will vary — this is because a change in even one case in a small facility will cause the rate to go up or down considerably.

Target Rate

The target rate is not currently available but it is anticipated that this will be established by the MOHLTC for hospitals of comparable size in the near future.

	2008	2009				
Georgetown Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	0	0	0	0	0	
Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

	2008	2009				
Milton District Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	0	0	0	1	0	
Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	

	2008	2009				
Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	Sep. - Nov.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	
Cases	1	1	1	0	1	
Rate	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.03	

Updated: January 2010