



Information Bulletin – October 2007

Topic: MRSA

Given the dramatic increase in the occurrences of MRSA, Pro-Link is providing information to our distributors and end-user customers to help address the situation. Further information is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html

What is MRSA?¹

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph that is resistant to certain antibiotics. These antibiotics include methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities (such as nursing homes and dialysis centers) who have weakened immune systems (see healthcare-associated MRSA).

MRSA infections that are acquired by persons who have not been recently (within the past year) hospitalized or had a medical procedure (such as dialysis, surgery, catheters) are known as CA-MRSA infections. Staph or MRSA infections in the community are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples and boils, and occur in otherwise healthy people. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections.

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection (e.g., towels, used bandages).

Some settings have factors that make it easier for MRSA to be transmitted.

- These factors, referred to as the 5 C's, are as follows: Crowding, frequent skin-to-skin Contact, Compromised skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions), Contaminated items and surfaces, and lack of Cleanliness.
- Locations where the 5 C's are common include schools, dormitories, military barracks, households, correctional facilities, and daycare centers.

Preventing MRSA²

Practice good hygiene:

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
4. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

Maintain a clean environment by establishing cleaning procedures for frequently touched surfaces and surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin.

¹ From CDC web site

² From CDC web site

What to do if there is a MRSA Infection³

When MRSA skin infections occur, cleaning and disinfection should be performed on surfaces that are likely to contact uncovered or poorly covered infections.

- Cleaning surfaces with detergent-based cleaners or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectants is effective at removing MRSA from the environment.
- It is important to read the instruction labels on all cleaners to make sure they are used safely and appropriately.

Pro-Link Products

A number of Pro-Link products are available that are effective against MRSA. Review individual product labels for proper directions for use and refer to Material Safety Data Sheets for more information. Visit www.prolinkhq.com for more information about our products.

Product Name	Item #	Size/ Pack	Usage/Description
Broadband Q256	D10846	4 x 1 gallon	One step neutral disinfectant cleaner and deodorizer. Has broad spectrum kill against a wide variety of organisms. EPA registered. Dilution: 1:256
	D10847	5 gallon	
	TCS11024	4 x 1 Gal for TSC System	
Preference Q SC	11304	4 x 1 gallon	A disinfectant /cleaner/sanitizer/fungicide/mildewstat deodorizer. A one-step disinfectant cleaner that is effective against a broad spectrum of bacteria. EPA registered. Dilution: 1:256
0% Acid Bowl & Bathroom Cleaner	R000	12 x 1 quart	A one-step, ready-to-use cleaner for daily bathroom cleaning, disinfecting and deodorizing. Can be used to clean and disinfect toilet bowls and other hard, inanimate surfaces. EPA registered. Dilution: Ready to Use.
Bright N Fresh	D10858	12 x 1 quart	Non-acid bathroom and bowl cleaner. Cleans away soap scum, lotions and body oils. Effective against a wide variety of organisms. EPA registered. Dilution: Ready to Use.
Aerosol Disinfectant Spray	RA008	12 x 15.5oz aerosol cans	A phenolic-based, one-step disinfectant and deodorant. For use on pre-cleaned surfaces or objects previously soiled with blood or body fluids. Effective against many organisms. EPA registered. Ready to Use.

Facility Application

Any type of facility may have the need to combat MSRA outbreaks, but those most likely to have an issue are those with crowding, frequent skin-to-skin contact, compromised skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions) and contaminated items and surfaces. Those types of facilities should take extra precautions.

Examples include:

Day Care Centers
Dentist Offices
Doctor Offices

Gyms
Health Clubs
Hospitals

Hotels/Motels
Laboratories
Locker Rooms

Nursing Homes
Schools
Urgent Care Facilities

³ From CDC web site