



"Excellence in Home Care"

# MRSA: Staph Infection

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## What is MRSA?

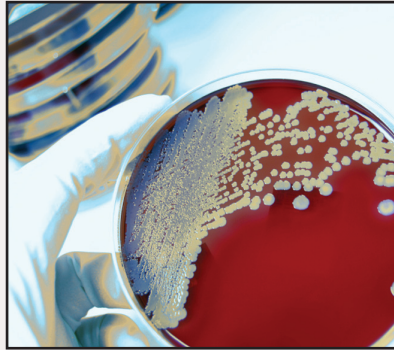
**M**ethicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to treatment with certain antibiotics.

In healthcare settings, MRSA infections occur most frequently among patients who undergo invasive medical procedures (e.g., surgery), have invasive devices (i.e., catheters), and who have weakened immune systems. MRSA in healthcare settings commonly causes serious and potentially life-threatening infections, such as bloodstream infections, surgical site infections, or pneumonia.

## Other ways of contracting MRSA

People who are healthy and who have not been in the hospital or a nursing home can also get MRSA infections. These usually involve the skin. This type of MRSA infection is known as "community-associated MRSA."

People who have MRSA germs on their skin or who are infected with MRSA may be able to spread the



germ to other people. MRSA can be passed on to bed linens, bed rails, bathroom fixtures, and medical equipment. It can spread to other people on contaminated equipment and on the hands of doctors, nurses, other healthcare providers and visitors.

## Treatments

There are antibiotics that can kill MRSA germs. Some patients with MRSA abscesses may need surgery to drain the infection. Your physician will determine which treatments are best for you.

## Prevention

- Make sure all doctors and nurses and other health providers wash their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub before and after caring for you.
- If you have wounds or a catheter or dialysis port, make sure you

know how to take care of them.

- Wash your hands before and after dressing any wound.
- Avoid sharing personal items (like towels or razors).
- Although the chance of getting MRSA while visiting a person is low, it is best to clean your hands before entering a room with a person who has MRSA.

## Bethany HomeHealth Can Help

In collaboration with the primary care giver, Bethany HomeHealth Nurses are trained and educated by a WOC Nurse (Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse) to provide excellence in wound care. They help patients prevent and manage infection and recover in their homes by providing:

- Wound cleaning and dressing, minimizing infection.
- Dressings that maintain the proper amount of moisture and protect the surrounding skin.
- Methods to eliminate or minimize pain.
- Treatment evaluation and recommendations for prevention of wounds.

Licensed Medicare and Medicaid agency by the State of Texas.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa>

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