

# Fact Sheet

## **MRSA – (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)**

### For Home Care Nurses

#### **Should home care patients be screened for MRSA?**

If patients are asymptomatic there is no need to screen for MRSA.

#### **When should testing for MRSA be done?**

Clients in home care who have signs or symptoms of infection should have the infected site swabbed. They do not need a nasal or groin swab.

If new pressure sores develop in immobile clients the wound should be swabbed for MRSA. If the culture is negative the area does not need to be swabbed again unless there are changes in the pressure sore and/or ulcer.

#### **What if a patient is positive for MRSA?**

If an admission is known to be MRSA positive (e.g. admitted from acute or long term care where they were positive for MRSA) they should be placed on contact precautions.

If a culture on a client tested while in home care comes back positive for MRSA, contact precautions are to be followed by all health care workers entering the client's home.

Schedule MRSA positive patients at the end of the day.

#### **What precautions should be taken with dressing changes?**

Put used dressings in a plastic bag, tie the plastic bag and place in garbage. Wash your hands after handling dressings.

Gloves should be worn for every dressing change where the provider may come in contact with skin that is not intact.

Masks should be worn when there is the possibility of splashing or body fluids while in contact with a client.

For additional information please see: [www.ccar-ccra.com](http://www.ccar-ccra.com)  
[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidacmn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/pidac/pidacmn.html)

**If you have any concerns or questions please contact your Community Health Centre or Public Health.**