Infection Control:  
*MRSA in the Assisted Living Setting*

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Methicillin Resistant  
Staphylococcus Aureus “MRSA”

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MRSA Causes

- Staph bacteria naturally live on skin cells and in the nose and are usually harmless.
- 1 out of every 3 persons has staph living on or in their bodies
- Again… It’s all about BALANCE!
- Some staph bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, such as Methicillin and become more difficult to treat.  
  – “Super Bugs!”
MRSA Causes

- Common areas MRSA can occur:
  - Wounds or skin
  - Burns
  - IV or other sites where tubes enter the body
  - Eyes
  - Bones
  - Heart
  - Blood
  - Respiratory Tract
  - Urine

MRSA Risk Factors

- Prolonged use of antibiotics
  - Broad spectrum and multiple antibiotics
- Recent surgery
- Open cuts or wounds with close contact with other (i.e.: sports)
- A weakened immune system
- Use of chemotherapy drugs
- Advanced age

MRSA Symptoms

- Increased warmth or redness in a wound
- Boils
- Abscesses
- Cellulitis
- Change in cognition, pain during urination, fever, flank pain, foul smelling urine - Urinary
- Cough – respiratory MRSA
  Can range from very mild symptoms to fatal
Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus “MRSA”

MRSA Diagnosis

- Urine Sample
- Blood Sample
- Wound Culture
- Nasal Swab
- Sputum Culture
**MRSA Transmission**

- Transferred by contact with contaminated surfaces or bodily fluids
- Common in areas of close contact, crowded living conditions, or poor hygiene

**MRSA Prevention**

- Good Hand Washing!
- Keep infected areas covered
- Clean surfaces in bathrooms and kitchens regularly
- Wash soiled clothing with detergent and chlorine bleach.
- Prevent over-use of antibiotics

**MRSA Treatment**

- Incision and Drainage of skin wounds
- Antibiotics
  - Oral
  - IV
MRSA
Isolation or No Isolation?
• Use Contact Precautions.
• Droplet Precautions are advised if MRSA is respiratory and cough is present
• Private rooms should be used or cohort residents with MRSA
• Gloves should be worn at all times
• Gowns to be used during care if there is a concern with contact
• Good hand hygiene!

MRSA
Reportable or Not Reportable?
• Know Your ABCs!!
  – See handout
• Reportable if there is an outbreak, unusual incidence, or epidemic
  – Must be reported by the end of the next business day in this event

MRSA
Environmental Considerations
• Surfaces need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly
  – Use EPA registered disinfectants
• Routine laundry procedures with detergent should be sufficient.
  – Separate laundry loads should not be necessary