

## MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA is quickly becoming a well known term associated with nosocomial infections in hospitals. The incidence of infection with this and other resistant strains of bacteria have been steadily increasing over the past few years. Infections with these microorganisms present many problems, two of which are the lack of available antimicrobial agents that can be used to treat infections and the potential for these organisms to “transfer” their resistance to other types and species of bacteria.

A complete discussion on the mechanics of bacterial resistance is not necessary to understand how to stop transmission of these infections to susceptible patients or other healthcare workers. Current literature cites that the implementation of appropriate infection control measures is the best way to prevent person to person transmission of resistant bacteria. What are appropriate infection control measures? Appropriate Infection control measures would include, but are not limited to, steps aimed at the prevention and control of spread of infectious diseases in susceptible populations. Of these measures, the simplest one is...

### WASH YOUR HANDS!!

According to the Standard Precautions as described in the “Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals”, the following procedures are recommended to prevent the spread of pathogenic organisms:

“Handwashing should be performed after touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and contaminated items whether or not gloves are worn. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed, between patient contacts, and when otherwise indicated to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments. It may be necessary to wash hands between tasks and procedures on the same patient to prevent cross-contamination of different body sites.”<sup>1</sup>

HealthLink offers AloeGuard® Antimicrobial Soap as the solution to the problems of dry skin associated with frequent handwashing and the need for a soap that kills bacteria, specifically those that are resistant to antimicrobials. Laboratory studies show that AloeGuard® with 0.5% PCMX is highly effective against MRSA, as well as numerous other bacteria, yeast and fungi.

AloeGuard® is specially formulated with aloe vera to protect the skin’s delicate balance and to provide the high antimicrobial efficacy necessary for personal protection and reduction of cross contamination with MRSA and other pathogenic organisms.

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<sup>1</sup> Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 1996; 17:53-80