



MRSA Bloodstream Infections

in Rhode
Island
Hospitals

What are Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections?

“MRSA bloodstream infections” are infections where a germ gets into your blood. This germ can enter the body in many ways, like through a catheter, or medical tube in your vein such as a “central line” that you may have when you are very sick in the hospital.

Why should we care about this kind of infection?

Although the number of people with MRSA bloodstream infections is lower than a few years ago, these infections can be dangerous.

Who has the highest chance of getting MRSA bloodstream infections?

You can get a MRSA bloodstream infection if you have a catheter in your vein.

What are hospitals doing to protect you?

MRSA bloodstream infections may be prevented, mainly by caring for the catheters in your veins, such as “central lines.” Hospitals take steps

to prevent MRSA bloodstream infections, like making sure workers clean your skin before putting in a catheter.

Workers should also clean their hands before and after touching you, clean their hands before putting medications in your catheters, and wear gowns and gloves when caring for some patients with infections.

How can we compare the number of people who get MRSA bloodstream infections at each hospital?

Hospitals collect information about MRSA bloodstream infections among patients in their intensive care units. We use that information to give each hospital a single rating that includes all of their intensive care units. This helps you to compare hospitals:

- ◆ **more** than expected
- ◆◆ **about as many** as expected
- ◆◆◆ **fewer** than expected

Why do we compare hospitals using diamonds?

The diamonds help to explain the numbers. It can be hard to make

sense of the numbers without knowing what is “good” and what is “bad.” Remember, the diamonds are only one piece of information to help you make healthcare choices.

Why do some hospitals do better and some worse?

Hospitals have taken steps to prevent MRSA bloodstream infections. But some hospitals may have more infections than others, even if they provide good care, for example if they:

- Care for more patients at greater risk of infection
- Are more likely to test their patients and find infections

What should you do if you have more questions?

Call 401-222-2577 or visit health.ri.gov and choose “Healthcare Acquired Infections” from the “Diseases” section.

Information is also available from the CDC. Visit cdc.gov and choose “MRSA” from the “Diseases and Conditions A-Z Index” section.

You can also ask your doctors and nurses how to prevent infections.

Hospital (Alphabetical)	MRSA Rating*
Kent Hospital	◆◆◆
Landmark Medical Center	◆◆◆
Memorial Hospital	◆◆
The Miriam Hospital	◆◆◆
Newport Hospital	◆◆◆
Our Lady of Fatima Hospital	◆◆◆
Rhode Island Hospital	◆◆◆
Roger Williams Medical Center	◆◆◆
South County Hospital	◆◆◆
Westerly Hospital	◆◆◆
Women & Infants Hospital	◆◆◆

◆ **more** than expected, ◆◆ **about as many** as expected, ◆◆◆ **fewer** than expected

n/a – national ICU benchmark unavailable

* Compares hospital-associated cases in the intensive care units (ICUs) from Oct-Dec 2015 to national ICU benchmarks from 1997-2007.

How can you protect yourself and others from MRSA bloodstream infections?

These steps can help:

1. Clean your hands.
2. Wear gowns and gloves when visiting patients with MRSA infections in the hospital.
3. Make sure your doctors and nurses clean their hands before and after touching you in the hospital.