



Effective Health Care

MRSA Screening

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time; however, it will be considered for a potential technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
- To see a description of a technical brief, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-for-policymakers-researchers-and-others/>.
- If this topic is developed into a technical brief, key questions will be drafted and posted on the AHRQ Web site. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator:	National non-governmental advisory group
Nomination Summary:	The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of screening for MRSA versus no screening in the inpatient setting. Population(s): All patients within an inpatient setting Intervention(s): Screening patients for MRSA upon hospital admission Comparator(s): No screening for MRSA upon hospital admission Outcome(s): Reduced incidence of MRSA transmission
Key Questions from Nominator:	None

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Very limited controlled trial data exists that has tested the proposal that rapid and/or universal MRSA screening has added benefit compared with standard MRSA control alone in preventing nosocomial MRSA infections and decreasing MRSA transmission rates. Experts, large hospital organizations, and new legislative mandates in some US states have called for widespread MRSA screening for the prevention of MRSA transmission. Given the amount of data available on rapid and/or universal screening specifically, this topic may not be feasible for a systematic review; however, a technical brief

for this topic could examine the current evidence for rapid and/or universal MRSA screening upon hospital admission and identify research gaps for this topic.