POLICY STATEMENT

All MRSA patients (both infected and colonized) must be promptly identified, and the appropriate transmission-based precautions initiated. Therefore, all new admissions and transferred in patients to an intensive care unit (ICU) will be polymer chair reaction (PCR) screened for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Weekly screening for MRSA by PCR will be done on patients with an unknown status, while patients SI coded (known previous positives for MRSA) do not require screening.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

*Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:*

☑ Hired Staff
☑ Housestaff/Residents & Clinical Fellows
☑ Leased staff
☑ Medical Staff (includes Physicians, PAs, APNs)
☑ Patient Care Services (Nursing, PCT’s, Unit Clerks)
☑ Professional Services (Laboratory, Radiology, Respiratory, Pharmacy; etc.)
☐ Vendors/Contractors
☐ Other:

DEFINITIONS

Intentionally left blank.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

Upon admission or transfer into an ICU, all patients will have a nasal swab taken for MRSA PCR screening. Patients will be placed on Contact Precautions until results of the test are obtained. If positive, the patient will continue on Contact Precautions. If negative, Contact Precautions will be discontinued.
All patients with a negative MRSA PCR screening will have weekly MRSA PCR screening test obtained. These tests will be performed on the same designated day of the week every week for each ICU. If the screening test returns positive, the patient will be placed in Contact Precautions.

**Hand Hygiene**
Hand Hygiene must be performed prior to and after obtaining a MRSA PCR screening.

**Communication of MRSA and Patient Status**
The Microbiology personnel will batch and run the PCR weekly cultures during the day and notify the charge nurse of all positive and negative results. Admission cultures will be run upon receiving the specimen. Microbiology will notify the nurse in charge of the patient and Hospital Epidemiology (during the week) and the nursing supervisor on the weekend, nights and holidays of the results (positive and negative) of the MRSA PCR screening positive and negative results. This will help insure that the patient is properly continued on or removed from Contact Precautions.

**Education**
The hospital educates all staff and licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) about health care-associated infections, multidrug-resistant organisms, and prevention strategies at hire and annually thereafter. The education is consistent with their roles within the hospital.

The hospital educates patients, and their families as needed, who are infected or colonized with a multidrug-resistant organism about health care-associated infection prevention strategies.

**Active Surveillance Cultures**
Surveillance cultures for MRSA and other targeted MDROs will be reviewed yearly by the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and recommendations made at that time.

**REFERENCES, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AND TOOLS**
Intentionally left blank.

**RELATED POLICIES**
Hand Hygiene Policy

**APPROVED BY**
Chief Executive Officer, AU Medical Center  
**Date:** 07/13/2016