

05/29: 19 July 2005

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATED* WITH MULTIRESTANT MRSA IN THE LAST 13 WEEKS: 16 April -15 July 2005

Healthcare facility (HCF)	Date MRSA last isolated	Persons with MRSA	Strain (MRSA Report No. in which strain first described)	Ward/Dept where cross-infection occurred	Date cross-infection strain last isolated
Whangarei Hospital	31.05.05	3	1 AKh4 (01/50) 1 WR/AK1 (98/38)		
Auckland City Hospital	3.07.05	30	9 AKh4 16 EMRSA-15 (99/3)		
Middlemore Hospital	1.07.05	43	1 AKh4 38 EMRSA-15 2 WR/AK1	#	1.07.05
North Shore Hospital	1.07.05	21	4 AKh4 4 AKh4 11 EMRSA-15 1 WR/AK1	8, Surgical	6.05.05
Starship Children's Health, Auckland	28.05.05	4	4 WR/AK1		
Waitakere Hospital	16.06.05	2	2 AKh4		
Lady Allum Village, Auckland	23.06.05	2	1 EMRSA-15		
Regency Home & Hospital, Auckland	8.05.05	2	2 EMRSA-15		
Other Auckland HCFs [†]	7.07.05	47	6 AKh4 38 EMRSA-15 2 WR/AK1		
Thames Hospital	20.06.05	7	6 EMRSA-15 1 EMRSA-15	6, Surgical/ATR	20.06.05
Waikato Hospital	4.07.05	16	2 EMRSA-15 1 EMRSA-15 12 EMRSA-15 1 WR/AK1	2, Surgical 5, Medical	2.06.05 12.05.05
Maeroa Lodge, Hamilton	24.05.05	2	2 EMRSA-15		
Other Hamilton HCFs [†]	18.05.05	4	4 EMRSA-15		
Tauranga Hospital	1.07.05	4	4 EMRSA-15		
Whakatane Hospital	7.06.05	4	4 EMRSA-15		
Hawkes Bay Hospital	29.06.05	17	6 EMRSA-15 8 EMRSA-16 (99/32) 2 WR/AK1		
Palmerston North Hospital	6.07.05	3	2 EMRSA-15 1 WR/AK1		
Madison Rest Home Hospital & Village, Levin	21.05.05	2	2 EMRSA-15		
Hutt Hospital	10.06.05	2	1 EMRSA-15 1 WR/AK1		
Wellington Hospital	5.07.05	5	1 DN1 (05/7) 2 EMRSA-15		
Dunedin Hospital	1.07.05	8	6 EMRSA-15		
Leslie Groves Hospital, Dunedin	2.06.05	2	2 EMRSA-15		

* MRSA isolated from at least two patients or staff, including discharged patients, but not patients isolated on admission.

Cross-infection has occurred in several wards in the healthcare facility.

† Healthcare facilities whose names are withheld from publication or are unknown.

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MULTIRESISTANT MRSA NEWLY CONFIRMED: 9-15 July 2005

HEALTHCARE FACILITY

- Auckland City Hospital: 6 patients: 3 with EMRSA-15 strain isolated on admission;
1 post-discharge with AKh4 MRSA.
- Middlemore Hospital: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Auckland healthcare facilities †: 2 patients: 1 with AKh4 MRSA;
1 with WR/AK1 strain.
- North Shore Hospital: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Waikato Hospital: 2 patients with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Trevellyn Rest Home & Hospital, Hamilton: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Tauranga Hospital: 1 Emergency Department patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Hawkes Bay Hospital: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Aroha Care Centre, Lower Hutt: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Wellington Hospital: 1 patient with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Dunedin Hospital: 2 patients with EMRSA-15 strain. One of these patients is a resident of Oxford Court Rest Home.

HEALTHCARE FACILITY (but patient in isolation from time of admission)

- North Shore Hospital: 1 patient, who is a resident of Belmont Private Hospital, with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Rotorua Hospital: 1 patient.

COMMUNITY

- Auckland: 9 people: 5 with EMRSA-15 strain;
1 with AKh4 MRSA.
- Tauranga: 1 person with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Rotorua: 1 person with EMRSA-15 strain.
- Hawkes Bay: 2 people: 1 with EMRSA-15 strain;
1 with EMRSA-16 strain.
- Canterbury: 1 person with WR/AK1 strain.

CURRENT OUTBREAKS OF NON-MULTIRESISTANT MRSA

Non-multiresistant EMRSA-15 (ciprofloxacin-resistant, erythromycin-susceptible) were newly isolated from 1 patient in Auckland City Hospital; 1 patient in an Auckland healthcare facility †; 1 patient in Rotorua Hospital; 1 patient post-discharge from a Christchurch healthcare facility †; and 1 Waikato community patient.

† Healthcare facilities whose names are withheld from publication or are unknown.

Please see an important notice on the next page

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Changes to the national surveillance of multiresistant MRSA

At a recent meeting of the Ministry of Health's Antibiotic Resistance Advisory Group Surveillance Subcommittee, a decision was made to cease the continuous national surveillance of multiresistant MRSA (mMRSA). Therefore, effective from 1 August 2005, labs will no longer be required to routinely refer all mMRSA to ESR for surveillance purposes. Consequently this *MRSA Report* will cease publication, with the report of 2 August being the final issue.

As advised in the *Guidelines for the control of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in New Zealand* (2002), when patients are being transferred between healthcare facilities or when staff are being employed, good communication between facilities is the most important measure to minimise the risk of MRSA transmission. The *MRSA Report* was only intended to be complementary to this communication. Moreover, the usefulness of the *Report* is limited by its information being 2-3 weeks out of date and by many private healthcare facilities not permitting their identity to be published.

Future MRSA national surveillance will be based on annual one-month surveys. Such MRSA surveys have been conducted since 2000. The results of these surveys are published at http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/antimicrobial/mrsa_annual.php.

Please note that labs and healthcare facilities that wish to refer MRSA isolates to ESR for confirmation or typing can still do so. In fact, labs are encouraged to refer MRSA for typing and strain identification when this information may assist in outbreak investigations.

All medical microbiology labs have been advised of these changes by letter. Please contact me if you have any queries about these changes.

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