## Change to Precautions Requirements for MRSA and VRE

### Adult Inpatient Areas

| S | Patients with identified history of MRSA and VRE are typically placed in contact precautions. This requirement is being modified and will not be implemented for adult inpatient units. This **DOES NOT APPLY** to patient with active infections with MRSA or VRE. |
| B | In order to conserve supplies needed for isolation, this anticipated change in practice has been expedited by our System Infection Prevention team. |
| A | Strict compliance with Standard Precautions is best practice to stop cross contamination of objects and transmission of disease to humans. |
| R | This practice change is endorsed by System Infection Prevention. Accumulating body of evidence indicates that eliminating Contact Precautions for history of infection or colonization with MRSA and VRE does not increase unit infection rates when staff consistently practice Standard Precautions. Standard Precautions include Hand Hygiene, respiratory/cough etiquette, appropriate patient placement, proper disinfection of equipment/instruments/environment, careful handling of linens and laundry, safe injection practices, and proper handling and disposal of sharps. [CDC Infection Control Basics](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdfs/basicspdf.pdf) |

### Practice Change:

- The practice of MRSA screening should continue as it provides clinical utility for Physicians and clinicians in the treatment and identification for de-escalation of antibiotics in certain circumstances.
- In order to preserve supply of gowns and gloves, patients with history of or current colonization with MRSA or VRE will not be placed in contact isolation. Team members should continue to use meticulous hand hygiene to prevent transmission.

Alignment of alerts and BPAs within Epic are actively being worked on to meet guidelines. Until then, please follow the recommendations about PPE usage that are included in this practice alert.

---

Further education forthcoming

[No further education is planned](x)

For questions contact:

*Site Infection Preventionist*  
(For questions contact)

Change went into effect March 20

Updated Alert for to clarify direction

Created: 3/19/2020

Created By: System Infection Prevention and System Nursing Education

Updated/Revised: 4/8/20

Remove Flyer by: 5/1/2020