**MRSA PCR Protocol for Pneumonia**

**MRSA PCR screening of the nares is NOT clinically relevant for infections other than pneumonia**

MRSA PCR is a valuable tool that can be used to identify circumstances in which antibiotics targeting MRSA may NOT be warranted in the empiric treatment of pneumonia. It has been shown to have a >99% negative predictive value for MRSA pneumonia in patient populations with low risk (≤10%) for MRSA infection; however, it is less reliable in populations with higher risk. This protocol provides guidance on differentiating the patients in which MRSA screening would be most beneficial versus those patients in which it would be a less accurate predictor for MRSA pneumonia.

**Risk Factors for MRSA Pneumonia**

- Recent hospitalization (>48 hours within last 90 days)
- Nursing home/SNF/long term care (within last 90 days)
- Prior IV antibiotics within last 30 days (>7 days duration)
- ICU admission within the last 90 days
- Current inhaled tobacco use
- Current or recent history of IV drug usage
- Prior history of MRSA positive culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If MRSA screen negative:</th>
<th>If MRSA screen positive:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1 Risk Factors: Reasonable to exclude empiric MRSA therapy (pneumonia only)</td>
<td>Defer to culture results and clinical status</td>
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<tr>
<td>2+ Risk Factors: Defer to culture results and clinical status</td>
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References


Updated by Justin Jellison, PharmD & Briana Wenke, PharmD
Approved by ASP Committee
Last Revision Date July 2015