

Removal of Contact Precautions for Patients with MRSA with Prolonged Hospitalizations

To remove Contact Precautions for a patient with a prolonged (> 90 day) hospitalization admission, a patient must have **3 sets** of negative MRSA surveillance cultures:

One complete set includes swabs from:

Site 1: anterior nares

Site 2: axillae or perineum

Site 3: wound*

*Wound notes:

If the patient does not have any open wounds, this site may be omitted.

Percutaneous device insertion sites or tracheostomies are not considered wounds.

If original infection site was a wound, culture any unhealed wound.

Once a set has been collected and finalized as negative, the next set may be collected.

If the patient has 3 negative sets of MRSA surveillance swabs, the MRSA infection field may be removed by calling Infection Prevention at 984-974-7500, or by using the on-call pager at 919-216-2935.

Patients must be without antibiotics for **72 hours** prior to swab collection **OR 3 weeks** for dialysis patients.

Policy does not apply to patients with Cystic Fibrosis.

Contact Precautions may not be removed if patient has a positive MRSA swab.

Decolonization protocols should not be utilized to remove patients from isolation precautions. MRSA surveillance cultures should not be performed until at least 30 days have passed since completion of nasal decolonization, if utilized.