
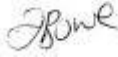





Children's Health Ireland
at Crumlin

EXTERNAL NURSING STUDENT MICROBIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE SCREENING


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1.0 Introduction

This guideline outlines the MRSA screening requirements for all nursing students from external sites coming on placement to CHI at Crumlin.

2.0 Applicable to

All nursing students coming on placement to CHI at Crumlin.

3.0 Objective of Guideline

The objective of this policy is to protect staff and patients from exposure to infection and to manage episodes of cross infection/outbreaks as efficiently as possible.

4.0 Definition / Terms

MRSA – Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

OHD – Occupational Health Department

5.0 Current Screening


Microbiological surveillance screening for staff for multi-drug resistant organisms such as MRSA is conducted for all new employees regardless of grade or place of work. Similarly, this screening is also conducted for nursing students undertaking specialist clinical placements in CHI at Crumlin. This is to safeguard vulnerable patients.

6.0 Mechanism for Student Screening

All student nurses coming on placement to CHI at Crumlin should be screened for MRSA as follows:

1. **Screening is the responsibility of the students' parent hospital / college.**
2. A 2-site MRSA screen is to be completed to include a swab of:
 - Nose
 - Axilla

(Note: A pooled sample is acceptable at this stage)
2. Screening should be completed within 4 weeks of starting placement and the Allocations Officer / relevant contact person in CHI at Crumlin made aware of the results prior to the students starting placement.
3. Each student should bring a copy of the results with them to their orientation on the first morning. **The locations of the swabs taken should be clearly evident.**
4. No student will be permitted on placement without a clear MRSA screen.
5. If a student's MRSA screen comes back with a positive result, further screening is required to identify if 1 or more locations are colonized.

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6. This screening should consist of:
 - Nose
 - Throat
 - Groin
 - Axilla

(**Note:** A pooled sample is **NOT** acceptable at this stage)
7. Re-education regarding Hand hygiene is required
8. Before starting placement – 2 additional negative screens at least 1 week apart must be obtained to ensure full eradication. This screen must consist of the following swabs:
 - Nose
 - Throat
 - Axilla
 - Groin

(**Note:** A pooled sample is **NOT** acceptable at this stage)

It is recognised that students may find screening both upsetting and intrusive and every effort should be made to minimize both personal and professional disruption. Students are encouraged to liaise with their parent hospital OHD regarding queries or anxieties linked to work place screening.

7.0 Bibliography

Royal College of Physicians in Ireland / Health Service Executive (2015) Standard operating procedures for hand hygiene in Ireland Healthcare settings: Update of 2005 standard operating procedures. Dublin: HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

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