

## **Enhanced surveillance of Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia in patients in established renal failure**

All NHS Trusts in England are required by the Department of Health to report every episode of MRSA bacteraemia. These data are entered onto a web-based data capture system managed by the Health Protection Agency and Trusts rate of MRSA bacteraemia reported every quarter. [http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1229502457803](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1229502457803)

A significant proportion of these MRSA bacteraemias occur in patients receiving dialysis. For this reason, in 2007 the facility to capture additional data on those patients with MRSA bacteraemia and in established renal failure was added to the system for reporting MRSA bacteraemia. [http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1194947399620](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947399620)

In the first year of this enhanced surveillance 188 MRSA bacteraemia were reported in patients in established renal failure (ERF) and the data was analysed and reported in conjunction with the UK Renal Registry. <http://www.online.karger.com/ProdukteDB/produkte.asp?Doi=210001>

### **How the system works**

- In each Trust a member of staff in clinical microbiology or infection control (HCAI surveillance contact) will be responsible for entering new episodes of MRSA bacteraemia into the Healthcare Associated Infection Data Capture System.
- If the HCAI surveillance contact, on entering the MRSA bacteraemia indicates (on the basis of clinical details provided) that the patient is in ERF then the record is 'shared' with the relevant renal unit. This triggers an automated email to the designated renal lead and one other contact in the renal unit alerting them to the record and requesting that the additional renal data is completed.
- The names and email addresses of the renal lead and second contact person in the renal unit are provided to the Health Protection Agency by the Clinical or Specialty Director.
- The renal unit lead should logon to the Healthcare Associated Infection Data Capture System <https://nww.hcai.nhs.uk/MRSA/default.asp> where records that have been shared with the renal unit but not completed will be shown on the first screen.
- The renal unit lead should then open the 'shared' record, check the patient is on ERF at the renal unit and complete the extra data (usual provider of renal care; mode of dialysis, type of access; use of dialysis catheter in last 28 days). (*Note: the renal unit log-on only allows renal data to be amended, not data in the main bacteraemia record*).
- The renal unit contacts can view data and run reports on all the patients whose records have been shared with them.

- If the patient is not in ERF, or is not a patient at that renal unit, the renal unit lead should contact the HCAI surveillance contact to ensure that the record is amended and the 'share' with the renal unit removed.

### **What happens to the data?**

At the end of each year the data captured in this enhanced dataset are analysed jointly by the HPA and UKRR to provide rates of MRSA bacteraemia by prevalent dialysis patients in each renal centre. When the data are available, this analysis will also include the proportion of patients in each renal unit receiving dialysis via fistula/graft or central vascular catheter.

### **What do you need to do?**

1. Identify a lead person in the renal unit who will receive the alert emails and can take responsibility for entering the renal data for patients in ERF who develop MRSA bacteraemia.
2. Identify a second representative of the renal unit who can receive the alert emails and deputise for the lead person or oversee the completion of the data.
3. Email the contact details (name, email, phone number) for these two people to:  
[mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk](mailto:mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk)
4. Ensure that all MRSA bacteraemia records that are 'shared' with the renal unit are investigated and either:
  - a) the enhanced dialysis data is completed on the HCAI data capture system
  - b) HCAI surveillance contact is asked to 'un-share' the record as the patient is not managed by your renal unit.
5. Ensure that [mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk](mailto:mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk) is informed if you wish to change the name of the lead person or deputy so that the email alert can be updated.

If you have any queries about this system and how to use please contact:

Health Protection Agency - HCAI surveillance team  
[mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk](mailto:mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk)

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