

Veterans Affairs initiative to prevent methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections.

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Jain R, Kralovic SM, Evans ME, et al. Veterans Affairs initiative to prevent methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;364(15):1419-30. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1007474. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/veterans-affairs-initiative-prevent-methicillin-resistant-staphylococcus-aureus-infections>

[Health care–associated infections](#) remain one of the most common preventable adverse events in hospitals, despite some successes at reducing rates of specific infections. Preventing infections caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) remains a difficult problem, as studies of prevention techniques have reached [conflicting results](#). This large-scale study of an MRSA prevention bundle implemented in the Veterans Affairs system found that a multifaceted approach including [universal screening](#), contact isolation precautions, and an emphasis on infection control as part of safety culture resulted in a significant reduction in MRSA infections in both intensive care and ward patients. Although the overall incidence of hospital-acquired MRSA infections has been [decreasing](#) nationwide, the effects of these infections can be devastating—as vividly described in this AHRQ WebM&M [commentary](#).