

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

January – March 2011

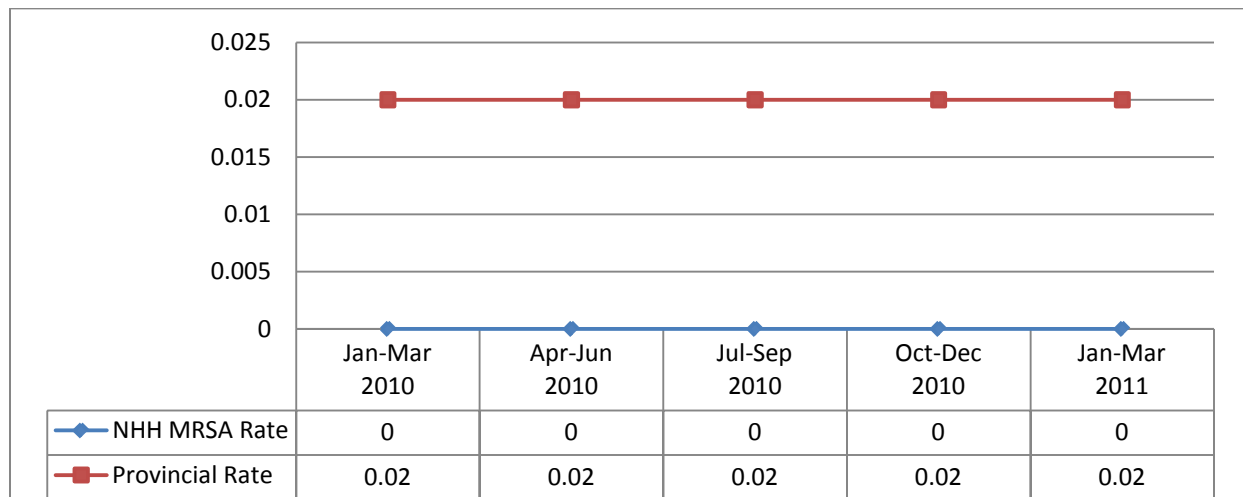
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What is Central Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)?

Staphylococcus aureus is a germ (Staphylococcus aureus, or S. aureus) that periodically lives on the skin and mucous membranes of healthy people. Occasionally S. aureus can cause an infection. When S. aureus develops resistance to certain antibiotics it is called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. MRSA is spread from one person to another by contact, usually on the hands of caregivers. Infections with MRSA may be minor, such as pimples and boils, but serious infections may also occur, such as surgical wound infections, pneumonia and bacteraemia. Bacteraemia is the presence of bacteria in the blood stream and is referred to as a bloodstream infection.

For more information on Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), click [here](#).

NHH Rate of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) per 1,000 Patient Days



	Jan – Mar 2010	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sept 2010	Oct - Dec 2010	Jan – Mar 2011
# New Cases, NHH	0	0	0	0	0

MRSA bacteraemia rates are determined by the number of patients newly diagnosed with hospital-acquired MRSA bacteraemia, divided by the number of patient days in that month, multiplied by 1,000. Patient days are the number of days spent in a hospital for all patients.

A case is a patient identified with laboratory confirmed bloodstream infection with MRSA. A blood stream infection is defined by a single positive blood culture for MRSA. Hospitals reporting less than 5 cases are not permitted to give the specific number but, rather, report “less than 5 cases” to avoid inadvertently identifying specific patients. Hospitals with zero cases also report their status.