From: UCSF-GME
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE CMO -- MRSA Surveillance Testing
Date: Monday, January 12, 2009 3:15:53 PM

TO: UCSF PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

FROM: Adrienne Green, M.D.

Co-Interim Chief Medical Officer
adrienne.green@ucsfmedctr.org

Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control
353-4343

RE: MRSA SURVEILLANCE TESTING

The California State Legislature has passed a law (SB1058), effective Jan. 1, that mandates MRSA surveillance testing for inpatients who are:

1. Undergoing surgery (The law requires that "patients susceptible to infection" are tested. To narrow the scope of testing and to gather evidence-based data, UCSF has limited this to cardiac surgery and hip and knee arthroplasty.)
2. Admitted to an intensive care unit
3. Undergoing inpatient hemodialysis
4. Discharged from an acute care hospital (UCSF or other) in the past 30 days
5. Transferred from a skilled nursing facility

The logistics of the new mandate are being finalized. This is the interim plan:

§ A section for ordering MRSA surveillance testing is on the adult admit and transfer order sets and will soon be available on the pediatric order sets.

§ If an MRSA screen is not ordered by the physician, the physician will be contacted with a reminder.

§ The microbiology requisition has been changed to include the MRSA screening test. If the new form is not available, it can be written on the old form as “MRSA screen.”

§ The nurse will collect the specimen from the anterior nares of the

patient and will give the patient and family printed information regarding the surveillance testing.

§ The MRSA screening results will appear in UCare.

§ If the culture is positive, Infection Control will text page the physician to alert him or her and provide a link from which patient information may be downloaded for both positive MRSA screens and clinical infections (see links below as reference).

§ The law requires that the physician notify the patient and family of a positive test. Education of patients with clinical infection is also mandated.

During the transition, there will be some "bugs" to sort out. Please be patient and refer any questions to Infection Control at 353-4343 or to the Infection Control Practitioner on call at 443-2644.

References:

1) SB 1058: http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/MRSA/sb_1058_bill.pdf
2) Educational material
   a) Positive Screen
      § Adult http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/MRSA/MRSA_AST_PtInfo_Adult.pdf
      § Pediatrics http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/MRSA/MRSA_AST_PtInfo_Peds.pdf
   b) MRSA infections
      § Adults http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/MRSA/MRSA_Infx_PtInfo_Adult.pdf
      § Pediatrics: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/documents/mrsaparentsguide.pdf