Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program

2021 Surveillance Protocol for Methicillin-Resistant and Methicillin-Susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* Bloodstream Infections in CNISP Hospitals

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BACKGROUND

Prior to 1995, national data describing the incidence and epidemiology of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in Canada were not available. In 1995, national surveillance for MRSA was started in sentinel hospitals participating in the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) and has been ongoing.

The Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) is a collaborative effort between the Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control (CCDIC) and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada and sentinel hospitals across Canada.

Established in 1994, the objectives of CNISP are to provide rates and trends on healthcare-associated (nosocomial) infections at Canadian health care facilities thus enabling comparison of rates (benchmarks), and providing evidence-based data that can be used in the development of national guidelines on clinical issues related to healthcare-associated infections. As of January 2020, 80 sentinel hospitals including 11 stand-alone pediatric sites from 10 provinces and one territory participate in the CNISP network.

Data collected for the surveillance year 2021 will reflect all "newly-identified" methicillin-susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) bloodstream infections acquired in the participating hospital and all MRSA bloodstream infections (BSIs) identified in participating CNISP hospitals.

OBJECTIVES

1. Describe MSSA and MRSA BSIs in Canadian acute-care hospitals, participating in CNISP;
2. Determine annual MSSA and/or MRSA bacteremia rates (as an indicator of the burden of disease) in Canadian hospitals, participating in CNISP;
3. Determine the proportion of healthcare-acquired (nosocomial) S. aureus BSI that are MRSA
4. Characterize all bloodstream MRSA isolates, from CNISP hospitals, by antimicrobial susceptibility testing and molecular typing.

METHODS

Eligibility
MSSA and MRSA surveillance is ongoing in all hospitals participating in CNISP.

Patient population
Ongoing, prospective surveillance of MSSA and MRSA in admitted patients of all ages.

Surveillance period
The MSSA and MRSA surveillance period begins January 1st, 2021 and continues to December 31st, 2021.
### Numerators

**TABLE 1: CASE DEFINITION FOR MSSA AND FOR MRSA USED FOR CASE CLASSIFICATION BY CNISP.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSSA</th>
<th>MRSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isolation of <em>Staphylococcus aureus</em> from blood <strong>AND</strong> Patient must be admitted to the hospital <strong>AND</strong> Is a &quot;newly identified S. aureus infection&quot; at a CNISP hospital at the time of hospital admission or identified during hospitalization.</td>
<td>Isolation of <em>Staphylococcus aureus</em> from blood <strong>AND</strong> Resistance of isolate to oxacillin and/or laboratory confirmation of <em>mec</em> (phenotypic or genotypic) <strong>AND</strong> Patient must be admitted to the hospital <strong>AND</strong> Is a &quot;newly identified MRSA infection&quot; at a CNISP hospital at the time of hospital admission or identified during hospitalization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Infection inclusion criteria

- MSSA or MRSA BSIs identified for the first time during this current hospital admission.
- MSSA or MRSA BSIs that have already been identified at your site or another CNISP site but are new infections.

**Criteria to determine NEW MSSA or MRSA BSI**

Once the patient has been identified with a MSSA or MRSA BSI, they will be classified as a new MSSA or MRSA if they meet the following criteria: > 14 days since previously treated MSSA or MRSA BSI and in the judgement of Infection Control physicians and practitioners represents a new infection.

### Infection exclusion criteria

- Emergency, clinic, or other outpatient cases who are **NOT admitted** to the hospital.

### Case Classification

Once the patient has been identified with a MSSA or MRSA BSI, they will be classified as one of the following, based on the case criteria and the best clinical judgement of the healthcare and/or infection prevention and control practitioner (IPC):

- **1. Healthcare-associated your acute-care facility (HA-YAF),** which includes Newborn cases of HA-YAF
- **2. Healthcare-associated any other healthcare exposure (HA-Other)**
- **3. Community-associated (CA)**
1a. HA-YAF case definition for a MSSA or MRSA BSI:
   - Patient is on or beyond calendar day 1 of their hospitalization
   OR
   - Patient has been hospitalized in your facility in the last 7 days or up to 90 days depending on the source of infection
   OR
   - Patient has had a healthcare exposure at your facility that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement)

1b. HA-YAF Newborn case definition for a MSSA or MRSA BSI
   - The newborn is on or beyond calendar day 3 of their hospitalization
   - The mother was NOT known to have MRSA on admission and there is no epidemiological reason to suspect that the mother was colonized prior to admission, even if the newborn is < 48 hours of age.
   - In the case of a newborn transferred from another institution, MSSA or MRSA BSI may be classified as HA-YAF if the organism was NOT known to be present and there is no epidemiological reason to suspect that acquisition occurred prior to transfer

**NOTE: The following definitions apply to MRSA BSI only. As of January 1, 2020, we are NOT collecting data on MSSA BSI acquired through any other healthcare exposure or community acquired BSI**

2. HA-Other case definition for MRSA BSI:
   - Any patient who has a bacteremia not acquired at your facility that is thought to be associated with any other healthcare exposure (e.g. another acute-care facility, long-term care, rehabilitation facility, clinic, ER visit or exposure to a medical device).

3. Community-associated (CA) case definition for MRSA BSI:
   - No exposure to healthcare that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgment) and does not meet the criteria for a healthcare-associated BSI.

---

1 Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission

2 For example, a MSSA/MRSA bacteremia from a surgical wound that occurs 3 weeks after a surgical procedure completed in your facility should be considered HA-YAF (up to 90 days after procedure if implant). A MSSA/MRSA bacteremic pneumonia occurring >7 days after discharge from your facility should not be considered HA-YAF

3 Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission

4 Consideration should be given to the frequency and nature of exposure to a medical device and/or procedure. For example, pediatric patients with clinic visits for otitis media, asthma, well-baby etc., may or may not be considered as HA while pediatric patients with clinic visits that involved invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA. Adult patients attending dialysis, receiving chemotherapy, outpatient visits involving invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA compared to adult patients with occasional outpatient or community health clinic visits.
Denominators
To obtain the necessary denominator information for the calculation of national MSSA and/or MRSA bacteremia rates (number of patient admissions and patient days), each participating healthcare facility will complete a denominator data collection form on a quarterly basis online through CNPHI at www.cnphi-rcrsp.ca no later than the end of the following quarter. See the SUBMISSION TIMELINE for a quarterly submission dates.

If your final year denominator (patient admission and/or patient days) total changes from those submitted through the quarterly submissions, this final calendar year total denominator will be required to be submitted by March 31 of the following calendar year (e.g. for 2020, annual total denominator data would be due March 31, 2021).

If your hospital provides care to both adult and pediatric populations and is able to provide separate denominators for adult and pediatric patients, please submit the adult and pediatric denominators separately on a quarterly basis.

*Note: Pediatric cases are defined as less than 18 years (< 18 years) of age.

Data Submission

**Note: As of January 1, 2020, only MSSA BSI acquired in the participating hospital (HA-YAF) and all MRSA BSIs should be reported**

**Electronic data entry**
All MSSA or MRSA BSI patient data (questionnaires and denominator forms) should be submitted to the Agency online through the Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI) at www.cnphi-rcrsp.ca. When entering data into CNPHI, please ensure that the case is entered into the correct surveillance year based on the date of positive culture.

**Online uploader tool:** Data can also be entered using the uploader tool available on CNPHI www.cnphi-rcrsp.ca under the ‘Upload Data’ tab (see image below).

**Blood Culture Isolates**
Surveillance for MSSA or MRSA BSI is laboratory-based. Laboratory identification of MSSA or MRSA BSI is required for inclusion into the surveillance. Each MRSA BSI identified throughout the surveillance year is to be submitted to the NML (all year round). All data must be collected using the questionnaire for a blood isolate (APPENDIX 3 - Patient Questionnaire for MSSA (S. aureus) or MRSA Blood Isolate). Please complete the questionnaire for each MSSA or MRSA BSI case. Blood Isolates must be recovered through positive blood culture.

*Note: the unique patient ID for the isolate must match the unique patient ID on the corresponding submitted MRSA questionnaire.*

**New Infections**
As a patient may have more than one MSSA or MRSA BSI during the same calendar year, NEW infections are to be identified by entering as a new case and ‘linking’ to the patient’s original S. aureus or MRSA BSI by entering the original case ID at the end of the questionnaire.

In the case of a new infection in the same patient please indicate the patient’s previous unique ID on the shipping form. As of January 1, 2019, MSSA BSIs are NOT sent to the NML.
Note: one blood isolate is required for every eligible MRSA BSI case.

Surveillance Algorithm
The [APPENDIX 1 - MSSA (S. AUREUS) AND MRSA SURVEILLANCE](#) Algorithm for 2021 has been provided to assist in surveillance activities.

Shipping Form
Each shipment of eligible MRSA blood isolates must be accompanied by a standardized shipping form. Please complete the MRSA standardized laboratory shipping form in [APPENDIX 2 - MRSA STANDARDIZED Laboratory Shipping Form](#). The form must be sent to [phac.nml.ARNi-RAiN.Inm.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.nml.ARNi-RAiN.Inm.aspc@canada.ca) AND included in the shipment to the NML. At the NML, spa typing, antimicrobial susceptibility testing and the detection of mec and PVL by PCR will be conducted on all submitted isolates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Send isolates to the following address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. George Golding</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Microbiology Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Agency of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1015 Arlington St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R3E 3R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 204 784 8096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use FedEx billing number: 6327-8173-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Submission Timeline
Submit MSSA-MRSA data and MRSA isolates according to the following timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collected in the following quarters</th>
<th>Numerator (cases)</th>
<th>Denominator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1st - Mar</td>
<td>Data and isolates due by June 30th</td>
<td>Jan 1st - Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1st - Jun</td>
<td>Data and isolates due by September 30th</td>
<td>Apr 1st - Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 1st - Sep</td>
<td>Data and isolates due by December 31st of following surveillance year</td>
<td>Jul 1st - Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1st - Dec</td>
<td>Data and isolates due by March 31st of following surveillance year</td>
<td>Oct 1st - Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Zero Report**
For any quarter with no cases at your site, a Zero Report must be made in the CNPHI MSSA-MRSA module so that quarters with zero counts can be differentiated from missing data. If no cases are submitted and you are missing zero reports for a surveillance year, your hospital data will not be included in the visual analytics.

**New Zero Report**

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*)

- **Site Number**
- **Year**: 2021
- **Quarter**: Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4

**ANALYSIS**
Individual site-specific, regional and national rates (per 1,000 admissions and per 10,000 inpatient-days) will be calculated each year by Agency staff. Specifically, incidence rates of MSSA or MRSA bloodstream infections will be calculated. While individual site-specific rates will be kept confidential and may only be disclosed to the site’s authorized contacts, regional and national rates will be reported via CNISP reports, presentations, publications, and published on the PHAC website.

**ETHICS**
This surveillance project is observational and does not involve any alteration in patient care. Surveillance for healthcare associated infections is a routine component of quality assurance and patient care in Canadian healthcare institutions and therefore informed consent will not be required. All data submitted to the Public Health Agency of Canada are kept strictly confidential. Each questionnaire will be identified by a unique number and no personal identifiers will be transmitted to the Public Health Agency of Canada. This unique number will be linked to the patient's name or hospital number only at the local CHEC site and will be kept strictly confidential under secure conditions.
PRIVACY
There is current demand for public disclosure of hospital-associated infections. Any data released by CNISP will be in summary format and will not identify individual hospitals. Hospital administrators should be made aware that national reporting of aggregate data will occur.
Appendix 1 - MSSA (S. aureus) and MRSA Surveillance Algorithm for 2021

*Note: MSSA refers to Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus*

Patient admitted to your hospital. What is the type of test conducted and the result?

Non-blood (clinical isolate)  |  Blood isolate

Positive MRSA OR Positive MSSA  |  Positive MRSA OR Positive MSSA in your facility (HA-YAF)

Does the patient develop a MSSA BSI in your facility (HA-YAF) OR a MRSA BSI (HA or CA)?

No  |  Yes

Do NOT assign CHEC number. Exclude from CNISP surveillance  |  Assign CHEC number. Fill in the blood isolate patient questionnaire for both MRSA & MSSA

Is it an MRSA blood stream infection?

No  |  Yes

Do NOT submit isolate to NML. As of January 1, 2019 MSSA blood isolates are not submitted to  |  Submit isolate to NML using the Laboratory Shipping Form.

*Note: If an MRSA BSI is identified any time during the surveillance year (January 1st to December 31st), notify your hospital laboratory to save and send the isolate to NML. Ensure each shipment of eligible MRSA blood isolates are accompanied by the MRSA standardized shipping form. In addition, please email the shipping form to the NML.
Appendix 2 - MRSA Standardized Laboratory Shipping Form

Include the following form with the shipment AND email to the NML address provided.

Send MRSA blood isolates to:
Dr. George Golding
National Microbiology Laboratory
1015 Arlington St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3R2
Tel: 204 784 8096
Use FedEx billing number: 6327-8173-3

In addition, email the shipping form to
phac.nml.ARNI-RAIN.Inm.aspc@canada.ca

Please click on the icon below to access the excel shipping form:
Appendix 3 - Patient Questionnaire for MSSA (S. aureus) or MRSA Blood Isolate

Please complete for all new MSSA and/or MRSA bloodstream infections. Please see Data dictionary in Appendix 4 - Data Dictionary for definitions and notes.

Laboratory requirements:

As of January 1, 2019, ONLY send MRSA BSI to NML

- Please notify the hospital laboratory to retain one blood specimen per MRSA BSI questionnaire (each new infection)
- Label the isolate as MRSA and if this is a new infection in a patient previously identified with a MRSA BSI in the same calendar year, please enter the previous (original) unique patient ID at the end of the questionnaire
- Forward MRSA BSI isolates (all year) to the NML using the standardized laboratory shipping form provided in Appendix 2 - MRSA STANDARDIZED Laboratory Shipping Form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | Is this bloodstream infection laboratory confirmed as:  
  - □ MSSA (S. aureus)  
  - □ MRSA |
| 2. | CHEC Site: __________________________ |
| 3. | Unique Patient ID: __________ YY __________ (e.g. 99Z21001)  
  - (CHEC site #) (year) (case number) |
| 4. | Age in years, months or days:  
  - Age ___________ □ Years □ Months □ Days |
| 5. | Postal code (first 3 digits): __________________________ |
| 6. | Sex:  
  - □ Male  
  - □ Female |
| 7. | Date of admission: _____ / _____ / _______  
  - DD MMM YYYY |
| 8. | Date first positive blood culture was obtained: _____ / _____ / _______  
  - DD MMM YYYY |
| 9. | What was the probable source/site of the bacteremia? Check one response only:  
  - □ IV catheter-associated  
  - □ Primary bacteremia, (source unknown/can’t determine)  
  - □ Skin/soft tissue/burn wound ➔ if yes, is it a case of Necrotizing Fasciitis? □ Yes □ No  
  - □ Surgical site/wound infection |
| □ Lower respiratory | □ Endocarditis |
| □ Osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, septic bursitis | □ Pneumonia **if yes, is it a case of Necrotizing Pneumonia?** □ Yes □ No |
| □ Meningitis | □ Urinary tract infection/urosepsis |
| □ Other (specify): ________________________________________________________________ |

10. Where was this bacteremia (infection) acquired? **Check one response only**

| □ Healthcare-associated – acquired in your acute facility (HA-YAF) |
| □ Healthcare-associated – acquired from any other healthcare exposure (HA-Other) |
| □ Community-associated (CA) |
| □ Unknown |

11. a. Was the patient previously known to have MRSA?

b. If YES, where was the MRSA acquired?:

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5 Lower respiratory includes sputum, bronchial washes, ETT aspirates, pleural fluid or lung tissue or abscess and associated with pneumonia, lung abscess or empyema.

6 Patient is on or beyond calendar day 3 of their hospitalization (Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission) OR has been hospitalized in your facility in the last 7 days or up to 90 days depending on the source of infection (for example, a MSSA/MRSA bacteremia from a surgical wound that occurs 3 weeks after a surgical procedure completed in your facility should be considered HA-YAF (up to 90 days after procedure if implant). A MSSA/MRSA bacteremic pneumonia occurring >7 days after discharge from your facility should not be considered HA-YAF) OR has had a healthcare exposure at your facility that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement).

7 Any patient who has a bacteremia not acquired at your facility that is thought to be associated with any other healthcare exposure (e.g. another acute-care facility, long-term care, rehabilitation facility, clinic, ER visit or exposure to a medical device).

8 No exposure to healthcare that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement) and does not meet the criteria for a healthcare-associated BSI. For example, pediatric patients with clinic visits for otitis media, asthma, well-baby etc., may or may not be considered as HA while pediatric patients with clinic visits that involved invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA. Adult patients attending dialysis, receiving chemotherapy, outpatient visits involving invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA compared to adult patients with occasional outpatient or community health clinic visits.

9 MRSA identified through screening on admission does not apply – the MRSA must have been identified through a clinical (wound, surgical site, respiratory, bone, blood etc.) specimen. Colonizations identified through clinical specimens are acceptable.

10 Please use the first known instance of MRSA (infection or colonization) in this patient to determine where acquired. This will depend on how far your hospital is able to look back. E.g. if MRSA colonization from a clinical specimen was first identified in 2015, then a respiratory MRSA infection in 2016 – use the MRSA colonization identified in 2015 to determine where-acquired.
| 11. □ No  
□ Yes  *if yes, go to 11b. | □ Healthcare-associated – acquired in your acute facility (HA-YAF) 
□ Healthcare-associated – acquired from any other healthcare exposure (HA-Other) 
□ Community-associated (CA) 
□ Unknown |
|---|---|
| 12. What was patient receiving hemodialysis at the time the positive blood culture was obtained? | □ Yes  
□ No |
| 13. Is the patient known to use or inject him/herself with IV drugs? | □ Yes  
□ No |
| 14. **After the blood culture was obtained**, but **BEFORE** the results were available, please indicate which antibiotics the patient received. **Check ALL that apply:** | □ Vancomycin  
□ Linezolid  
□ Daptomycin  
□ Clindamycin  
□ Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole |

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11 Patient is on or beyond calendar day 3 of their hospitalization (Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission) OR has been hospitalized in your facility in the last 7 days or up to 90 days depending on the source of infection (for example, a MSSA/MRSA bacteremia from a surgical wound that occurs 3 weeks after a surgical procedure completed in your facility should be considered HA-YAF (up to 90 days after procedure if implant). A MSSA/MRSA bacteremic pneumonia occurring >7 days after discharge from your facility should not be considered HA-YAF) OR has had a healthcare exposure at your facility that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement).

12 Any patient who has a bacteremia not acquired at your facility that is thought to be associated with any other healthcare exposure (e.g. another acute-care facility, long-term care, rehabilitation facility, clinic, ER visit or exposure to a medical device).

13 No exposure to healthcare that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement) and does not meet the criteria for a healthcare-associated BSI. For example, pediatric patients with clinic visits for otitis media, asthma, well-baby etc., may or may not be considered as HA while pediatric patients with clinic visits that involved invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA. Adult patients attending dialysis, receiving chemotherapy, outpatient visits involving invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA compared to adult patients with occasional outpatient or community health clinic visits.

14 This refers to current drug use within the last 6 months.
15. In the 24 hours following the day the MSSA or MRSA was identified/reported, please indicate which antibiotic(s) the patient had received. Check ALL that apply:

- [ ] Vancomycin
- [ ] Linezolid
- [ ] Daptomycin
- [ ] Clindamycin
- [ ] Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
- [ ] Cloxacillin
- [ ] Cefazolin
- [ ] Ceftriaxone
- [ ] Other: ______________________________
- [ ] No Antibiotics

16. a. Was the patient in ICU when the positive blood cultures were obtained?

- [ ] No → *if no, go to Q16b
- [ ] Yes → *if yes, go to Q17

b. If YES, what was the date of re-admission?

- [ ] Yes, indicate date of admission to the ICU: _____ / _____ / _______
  DD MMM YYYY
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unknown

17. Within the 30 days following the first positive blood culture, did the patient have:

(a) Persistent bacteremia (Blood cultures continue to be MSSA or MRSA positive for 7 or more days following the start of appropriate antibiotic therapy, without any interim negative blood cultures.)

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unknown

---

15 Do NOT include if >30 days.

16 Appropriate antibiotics for the treatment of MRSA bacteremia include: vancomycin, daptomycin, or linezolid
OR

(b) **Recurrent bacteremia** *(Recurrence of bacteremia = MSSA or MRSA positive blood culture(s) 14 days or more after documented negative blood cultures)*

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

18. a. What was the outcome at 30 days from the date of first positive blood culture?

- Patient still in hospital (awaiting LTC)  
- Patient still in hospital (acute care)  
- Patient discharged alive, NO readmission: *Indicate date of discharge:*
  
  _____ / _______ / _________  
  DD  MMM  YYYY

- Patient discharged alive and readmitted  *Go to question 18b*

- Patient died  *Indicate date of death:*
  
  _____ / _______ / _________  
  DD  MMM  YYYY

b. If the patient was discharged and readmitted within 30 days following the first positive blood culture, was it because of a recurrent MSSA or MRSA BSI?

- No  *Go to question 19*

- Yes  *Indicate date of discharge for previous admission, then *Go to question 18c:*
  
  _____ / _______ / _________  
  DD  MMM  YYYY

18c. If recurrent MSSA or MRSA BSI was the cause of readmission *(Q18b = yes)*, indicate the site of positive culture for the recurrent infection:

- IV catheter-associated
- Primary bacteremia, (source unknown/can’t determine)
- Surgical site / wound infection
- Skin/soft tissue / burn wound  *if yes, is it a case of Necrotizing fasciitis?*  
  - Yes  
  - No
- Lower Respiratory
- IV catheter exit site

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17 LTC = Long term care.

18 Lower respiratory includes sputum, bronchial washes, ETT aspirates, pleural fluid or lung tissue or abscess and associated with pneumonia, lung abscess or empyema.
19. Is this a **NEW** infection in a patient previously identified with a MSSA or MRSA BSI in this surveillance year?

- No
- Yes ➔ *please enter the original/previous unique patient ID:*

  ____________________ YY ________________(e.g. 99Z19001)

  (CHEC site #) (year) (case number)

20. During this admission or in the 14 days prior to this admission, did this patient test COVID-19 positive for the first time?

- Yes - if your site participates in VRI surveillance, please provide the PID for the COVID-19 patient questionnaire: __________
- No
- Unknown
Appendix 4 - Data Dictionary

Definitions and notes for Patient Questionnaire (Refer to Appendix 3 - Patient Questionnaire for MSSA (S. aureus) or MRSA Blood Isolate)

1. Is this bloodstream infection laboratory confirmed as MSSA (S. aureus) or MRSA?
   Please check only one response: MSSA or MRSA

2. CHEC Site #
   This will be the 3-character alphanumeric number assigned to your institution. It will always begin with the two digit number assigned to your CHEC member e.g., 99, and a letter assigned by the CHEC member for that specific institution e.g., A, B, C, etc. The CHEC site # for each institution should always be the same for all the CHEC/CNISP surveillance projects and will always have all three alphanumeric digits reported as the CHEC site #, e.g., 99Z.

3. Unique identifier code
   This 8 character code should consist of the 3 character CHEC site # (e.g., 99Z, the surveillance year the infection occurred in (e.g., 21), and a consecutive number starting at 001 and continuing on with each additional case. An example of the first case in an institution would be 99Z21001. An example of the thirty-fifth case would be 99Z21035, and so on.
   Note: Always label the laboratory isolate with this unique ID number.

4. Age in years, months or days
   Age (in years, months or days) at the time of positive culture.

5. Postal code
   Please enter the first 3 digits of the patient’s residential postal code.

6. Sex
   Check male or female

7. Date of admission
   Please indicate the date when the patient was admitted to the hospital. Please enter Day (08), Month (May)
8. **Date first positive blood culture was obtained:**

For the current admission, please indicate when the first blood isolate that tested positive was sampled. Please enter Day (08), Month (May) and Year (2021) in this order.

9. **What was the probable source/site of the bacteremia?**

What infection most likely gave rise to the MSSA or MRSA bacteremia? Choose from the list provided or specify if not included in the list. Please select only ONE response.

10. **Where was this bacteremia (infection) acquired?**

Please indicate whether the BSI was acquired in a healthcare setting or in the community according to the following definitions. If the site of acquisition cannot be determined, the site of acquisition may be reported as “Unknown”. Check only ONE response.

**For MRSA & MSSA BSI:**

**Healthcare-associated acquired in your acute-care facility (HA-YAF)**

- Patient is on or beyond calendar day 3\(^{19}\) of their hospitalization
  - OR
  - Has been hospitalized in your facility in the last 7 days or up to 90 days\(^{20}\) depending on the source of infection
  - OR
  - Has had a healthcare exposure at your facility that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement)

**Newborn HA-YAF case definition for a MSSA or MSRA BSI**

I. The newborn is on or beyond calendar day 3\(^{21}\) of their hospitalization

II. The mother was NOT known to have MRSA on admission and there is no epidemiological reason to suspect that the mother was colonized prior to admission, even if the newborn is < 48 hours of age.

III. In the case of a newborn transferred from another institution, MSSA or MRSA BSI may be classified as

\(^{19}\) *Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission*  

\(^{20}\) *For example, a MSSA/MRSA bacteremia from a surgical wound that occurs 3 weeks after a surgical procedure completed in your facility should be considered HA-YAF (up to 90 days after procedure if implant). A MSSA/MRSA bacteremic pneumonia occurring >7 days after discharge from your facility should not be considered HA-YAF*  

\(^{21}\) *Calendar day 1 is the day of hospital admission.*
HA-YAF if the organism was NOT known to be present and there is no epidemiological reason to suspect that acquisition occurred prior to transfer

**For MRSA BSI only:**

**Healthcare-associated any other healthcare exposure (HA-OTHER)**

Any patient who has a bacteremia not acquired at your facility that is thought to be associated with any other healthcare exposure (e.g. another acute-care facility, long-term care, rehabilitation facility, clinic, ER visit or exposure to a medical device).

**Community-associated (CA)**

No exposure to healthcare that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgement\(^\text{22}\)) and does not meet the criteria for healthcare-associated BSI

11. **Previous MRSA**

   a. **Was the patient previously known to have MRSA?**

   Please indicate yes or no if this patient was previously known to have MRSA. However, MRSA identified through screening on admission does **NOT** apply. The MRSA must have been identified through a clinical (wound, surgical site, respiratory, bone, blood etc.) specimen. Colonizations identified through clinical specimens are acceptable. If the patient was previously known to have MRSA please answer Q11b.

   b. **If yes, where was the MRSA acquired?**

   - Healthcare-associated (acquired in your facility)
   - Healthcare-associated (acquired from any other healthcare facility or exposure)
   - Community-associated
   - Unknown

   Please select one response from the list and refer to the definitions outlined in question 9. Please use the first known instance of MRSA (infection or colonization) in this patient to determine where acquired. This will depend on how far your hospital is able to look back. For example if a MRSA colonization from a

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\(^{22}\) Consideration should be given to the frequency and nature of exposure to a medical device and/or procedure. For example, pediatric patients with clinic visits for otitis media, asthma, well-baby etc., may or may not be considered as HA while pediatric patients with clinic visits that involved invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA. Adult patients attending dialysis, receiving chemotherapy, outpatient visits involving invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA compared to adult patients with occasional outpatient or community health clinic visits.
clinical specimen was first identified in 2015, then a respiratory MRSA infection in 2016 – use the MRSA colonization identified in 2015 to determine where-acquired.

12. Was the patient receiving hemodialysis at the time the positive blood culture was obtained?

Check the “Yes” box only if the patient was receiving hemodialysis.

13. Is the patient known to use or inject him/herself with IV drugs?

Is the patient a KNOWN current drug user? Has used within the past six months

14. After the blood culture was obtained, but BEFORE the results were available, please indicate which antibiotics the patient received

During the time between blood sampling and results of the laboratory test, if the patient was administered antibiotics please select the antibiotic(s) from the list. If the patient was not administered antibiotics during this time, please select the ‘No Antibiotics’ response.

15. In the 24 hours following the day the MRSA was identified/reported, please indicate which antibiotics the patient had received

Twenty-four (24) hours following the diagnosis of MSSA or MRSA bacteraemia, if the patient was administered antibiotics please select the antibiotic(s) from the list. If the patient was not administered antibiotics during this time, please select the ‘No Antibiotics’ response.

16. Intensive Care United (ICU)*

a. Please indicate if the patient was already in an ICU* when the positive blood cultures for MRSA were obtained by checking either “Yes”, or “No”.

b. If answered “No” to Q16a, please indicate if the patient was admitted to the ICU* from a non-ICU ward within 30 days of the date of positive culture.

* Intensive care unit (ICU) includes: medical, surgical combined medical-surgical, cardiovascular, coronary, neurosurgery, burn or step-down unit.

17. Within the 30-days following the first MRSA positive blood culture, did the patient have:

Please indicate “Yes”, “No” or “Unknown” for the following:

a. Persistent bacteremia. Persistent bacteremia means that the blood cultures continue to be positive with MSSA or MRSA for 7 or more days following the start of appropriate antibiotic therapy, without any interim negative blood cultures. (Appropriate antibiotics for the treatment of MRSA bacteremia include: vancomycin, daptomycin, or linezolid).

b. Recurrent bacteremia. MSSA or MRSA positive blood culture(s) for 14 days after documented negative blood cultures.
Note: If the ‘persistent’ or recurrent bacteremia occurs > 30 days after the first MSSA or MRSA blood culture, do NOT include.

18. 30-day outcome

a. Outcome at 30 days from the date of first positive blood culture

Thirty days after the date of first positive blood culture, please select one of the options available. Please indicate the date if the patient was discharged and not readmitted or if the patient died.

b. If the patient was discharged and readmitted within the 30 days following the first positive blood culture, was it because of a recurrent MRSA infection?

Please indicate “Yes” or “No”. If yes, please indicate the date of discharge for the previous admission and continue to question 18c. If no, skip question 18c and go to question 19.

c. If recurrent MRSA infection was the cause of readmission (Q18b = yes), indicate the site of positive culture for the recurrent infection

Please indicate the anatomic site from which the positive culture for this recurrent MRSA infection was isolated.

19. Is this a NEW infection in a patient previously identified with a MSSA or MRSA BSI in this surveillance year?

Please indicate whether this is a new infection in a patient previously identified with a MSSA or MRSA BSI in this surveillance year by checking yes or no.

If yes, please enter the original/previous unique ID that was assigned to the previous/original infection

20. During this admission or in the 14 days prior to this admission, did this patient test COVID-19 positive for the first time?”
Appendix 5 – Data Uploader on CNPHI

CNPHI – UPLOAD DATA FILES

How to submit data using the uploader on CNPHI

1. Step 1.
   Surveillance
   Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program

2. Step 2.
   Choose an application

   Menu

   Upload Data

*Select surveillance year
*Choose your file

5. Step 5.
   Upload Epi Data
## Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revisions Made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30, 2014</td>
<td>Changes made to homogenize CNISP protocol formatting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 12, 2014</td>
<td>‘Unique identifier code’ edited in the data dictionaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dec 30, 2014  | - Q14 revised to better identify whether patient was in ICU at time of positive MRSA culture or if not then was the patient transferred into an ICU within 30 days of the positive culture.  
  - 14a. Was the patient in ICU when the positive blood cultures for MRSA were obtained?  
  - 14b. Was the patient admitted or transferred to an ICU within 30 days after the first positive blood culture? |
| Nov 2, 2015   | 2016 MRSA protocol  
  - The reporting of MRSA colonizations (clinical and screening) to CNISP has been stopped. CNISP hospitals no longer will submit any colonization (clinical and screening) data to CNISP. All sections of the 2015 MRSA surveillance protocol relating to colonization (screening and clinical) data have been removed.  
  - Objectives clarified  
  - Case definition – admission to hospital and exclusion criteria clarified.  
  - Examples of application of HA & CA definitions for clinical isolates clarified.  
  - Clinical questionnaire  
    - Q8 – Responses:  
      - Sputum/lower respiratory changed to lower respiratory  
      - Bone/osteomyelitis response added  
      - Joint/septic arthritis response added  
    - Q9 clarified  
    - Q10 Outcome responses revised to:  
      - Patient still in hospital (awaiting LTC)  
      - Patient still in hospital (acute care)  
      - Patient discharged alive, indicate date of discharge  
      - Patient died, indicate date of death  
      - Unknown  
  - Blood questionnaire  
    - Q7 – Responses: Sputum/lower respiratory changed to lower respiratory  
    - Q15: Clarified that if persistent or recurrent bacteremia is identified >30 days after first positive blood culture do NOT include  
      - Q16a Outcome responses revised to:  
      - Patient still in hospital (awaiting LTC)  
      - Patient still in hospital (acute care)  
      - Patient discharged alive, indicate date of discharge |

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23 ICU includes medical, surgical combined medical-surgical, cardiovascular, coronary, neurosurgery, burn, or step-down unit.
MDS questionnaire

- Q17a, 17b and 17c removed as data no longer relevant to surveillance

- Q10 Outcome responses revised to:
  - Patient still in hospital (awaiting LTC)
  - Patient still in hospital (acute care)
  - Patient discharged alive, indicate date of discharge
  - Patient died, indicate date of death
  - Unknown

Case definition clarified:

- The following added to inclusion criteria: MRSA infection identified at a new site/source in a patient identified with a MRSA infection in a previous surveillance (calendar) year
- The following added to exclusion criteria: Infections re-admitted with MRSA (unless it is a different strain or a new/different site of MRSA infection).

Collection of MRSA clinical infections stopped and only data on bacteremias will be collected. A review of the data indicated MRSA clinical infections have remained relatively constant in relation to the proportion of those that are SKST, respiratory, SSI etc. In addition, MRSA BSI molecular data mirror that seen in clinical specimens. As a result, it was decided to collect only data on ALL NEW MRSA BSIs and add the collection of ALL NEW MSSA (S. aureus) BSIs. Please see surveillance definitions for HA, HA-YAF and CA.

Jan 18, 2018

- Q10b clarified – If the patient was previously known to have MRSA – where was it acquired (e.g., HA-YAF, HA-OTHER, CA)? Please use the first known instance of MRSA (infection or colonization) in this patient to determine where acquired. This will depend on how far your hospital is able to look back. For example if a MRSA colonization from a clinical specimen was first identified in 2015, then a respiratory MRSA infection in 2016 – use the MRSA colonization identified in 2015 to determine where-acquired.

Healthcare-associated and community-associated definitions updated.

- Previously read as ‘Adult patients attending dialysis, receiving chemotherapy, outpatient visits involving invasive procedures or day surgery may be more likely to be considered HA compared to adult patients with occasional outpatient or community health clinic visits.
- Now reads ‘Any patient who has a bacteremia not acquired at your facility that is thought to be associated with any other healthcare exposure (e.g. another acute-care facility, long term care, rehabilitation facility, clinic, ER visit or exposure to a medical device).’
- This would capture those patients whose only healthcare exposure was a previous
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Healthcare-associated and community-associated definitions revised due to feedback</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HA-YAF:</strong> Have added ‘Has had a healthcare exposure at your facility that would have resulted in this bacteremia (using best clinical judgment)’. This is intended to capture those patients who in the clinician’s best judgment could only have contracted the MSSA/MRSA at their hospital even though may have been admitted &lt;3 calendar days or had been hospitalized in your facility &gt;90 days ago (depending on the source of infection)</td>
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<td><strong>HA-OHE:</strong> Reworded to try and ensure that this MSSA/MRSA BSI is NOT attributed to your facility</td>
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<td><strong>CA:</strong> Reworded to allow discretion by the clinician who in using their best judgment attributes this MSSA/MRSA BSI to the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Removed Date of Birth (DOB) as an option – now only option is to give actual age in years, months or days</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Added Postal code (first 3 letters) (not mandatory) in order to try and see where patients are coming from when they get admitted to a CNISP hospital</strong></td>
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<td><strong>From the question ‘What was the probable source/site of the bacteremia? Check one response only’ removed the option ‘if yes, is it a case of necrotizing pneumonia? □ Yes □ No’ if they check Lower respiratory</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Q12 removed as repetitive – Q17 generally asks the same question with a different time frame. Question was: At the time the positive bloodstream culture was obtained, was the patient: In an ICU or discharged from an ICU within 48 hours AND In (or had been in) the ICU for 48 hours or more? □ Yes □ No</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 18, 2018</td>
<td>A decision was made at the annual CNISP meeting (Nov 2018) to</td>
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<td><strong>Not submit any MSSA BSI isolates to the NML starting January 1 2019</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Review all the data (epi &amp; lab) on MSSA BSI submitted in 2018 - i.e. observe any difference in the number of MSSA isolates sent in by month, hospital type (adult vs mixed vs peds), molecular characterization, AMR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Make a decision based on the 2018 data on whether we restart submission of MSSA isolates in 2020 and if yes, what should the time frame for submission of isolates be (e.g. 2 months, 3 months, winter, summer? etc)? All references in the 2019 protocol relating to submitting MSSA BSI isolates to the NML have been removed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 21, 2019</td>
<td>A decision was made at the annual CNISP meeting (Oct 2019) to</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Only collect data on MSSA BSI that are identified in the participating hospital (nosocomial)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Q13 Is the patient known to use or inject him/herself with IV drugs?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>A time frame was defined – only current drug use (used drugs within the past six months) is relevant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep, 2020</td>
<td><strong>A new question added: During this admission or in the 14 days prior to this admission, did this patient test COVID-19 positive for the first time?</strong></td>
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