

Defined risk factors for MRSA screening according to national guideline/recommendation

MRSA carriage risk factors	Germany	Netherlands
<b>(Previous) MRSA carriage or infection</b>	Known MRSA carrier or previous MRSA carriage or infection	<p>Known MRSA carrier (RMRSA)</p> <p>(Previous) MRSA carrier who underwent decolonisation, without three consecutive negative MRSA screening tests, taken at least 7 days apart (RMRSA)</p> <p>(Previous) MRSA carrier who underwent decolonisation, with three consecutive negative MRSA screening tests, taken at least 7 days apart, and is within 1 year follow-up after first negative MRSA test (RL)</p>
<b>Contact to MRSA positive person</b>	Contact with another person with MRSA carriage or infection (same room)	<p>Unprotected contact within the last 2 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inside hospital: part of ring investigation (RH)</li> <li>- Outside hospital: household member, partner or caregiver of MRSA positive person (RH)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>- Contact to MRSA positive healthcare worker, regardless of duration (RL)</li> </ul>
<b>Recent stay in other healthcare institution</b>	Hospitalisation for > 3 days within the previous 12 months	<p>Persistent unprotected exposure: negative MRSA screening test within the last 3 months (RL)</p> <p>Stayed in a foreign healthcare institution within the last 2 months (RH), and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- stayed more than 24 hours, or</li> <li>- stayed less than 24 hours plus at least one secondary risk factor (invasive procedure, chronic infections, persistent skin lesions, abscesses or furuncles) for MRSA carriage</li> </ul> <p>Stayed in a foreign healthcare institution more than 2 months ago plus at least one secondary risk factor (see above) for MRSA carriage (RL)</p>
<b>Haemodialysis patients</b>	Direct transfer of the patient from facilities in regions with known high MRSA prevalence (i.e. including all German healthcare facilities)	Previous hospitalisation within the last two months in a Dutch healthcare institution in a department with an ongoing MRSA outbreak (RH)
<b>Contact to livestock</b>	All haemodialysis patients <sup>b</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patient usually dialysed abroad (i.e. 'home dialysis center' abroad), now dialysed in the Netherlands (i.e. guest dialysis patients) (RH)</li> <li>- Patient usually dialysed in the Netherlands (i.e. Dutch 'home dialysis center') dialysed abroad within the last two months (RL)</li> <li>- Contact to live pigs/meat calves/broilers<sup>c</sup> regardless of whether this contact was professional or not and/or lives on a farm where these animals are kept (RH)</li> <li>- Persistent exposure: negative MRSA screening test within the last 3 months (RL)</li> </ul>
<b>Other risk factors</b>	<p>Chronic skin lesions</p> <p>Need for long-term care plus one of the following risk factors<sup>b</sup>: (i) receipt of antibiotics during the previous 6 months, or (ii) presence of indwelling devices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children adopted from abroad and living in the Netherlands (RH)</li> <li>- Stayed in a home for asylum seekers within the last two months (RH)<sup>d</sup></li> </ul>

MRSA: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*;

RMRSA/RH/RL: risk categories corresponding to different levels of isolation for inpatients.

<sup>a</sup> Added in December 2012.

<sup>b</sup> Modified in 2012–13: patient with two or more of the following risk factors: need for long-term care, receipt of any antibiotics during the previous six months, presence of indwelling devices, need for haemodialysis, skin lesions and burns.

<sup>c</sup> Modified; in 2012–13 only swine.

<sup>d</sup> Added in October 2015.