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Continuous Medical Education Forum (CME from EB)

Continuous medical education activities; Case No. 5

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Abstract

A 500-bed tertiary care hospital has implemented an effective infection control program 3 years ago. According to the line-listing monthly reports, the MRSA healthcare-associated infection (HAI) rate ranged from 3.8 to 12.4% during the last year. However, the MRSA infection rate has dramatically increased from 37.2% to 48.2% in the last 3 months. The infection control committee discussed this event. A decision of designing specific measures was taken to reduce MRSA transmission.

A 500-bed tertiary care hospital has implemented an effective infection control program 3 years ago. According to the line-listing monthly reports, the MRSA healthcare-associated infection (HAI) rate ranged from 3.8 to 12.4% during the last year. However, the MRSA infection rate has dramatically increased from 37.2% to 48.2% in the last 3 months (**Table 1**). The infection control committee discussed this event. A decision of designing specific measures was taken to reduce MRSA transmission.

Table 1. Total HAIs rates and MRSA infection rates over a 3-month period.

Month	HCAIs total rate No (%) ^a	MRSA HCAIs rate No (%) ^b
January	94	35 (37.2)
February	102	43 (42.1)
March	115	46 (48.7)

^a: The % was calculated by dividing total number of HCAIs by total admissions each month.

^b: The % was calculated by dividing total number of MRSA infections HCAIs by total number of HCAIs each month.

1. Name three factors related to the patients that may increase MRSA infection rate.
2. Can you think any causes attributable to healthcare practitioners which may facilitate MRSA transmission?
3. In your opinion, briefly, what are specific measures to be taken?
4. Suggesting that the above-taken measures failed to control the increasing MRSA infection rate, what are further measures warranted?

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