

## **Proposed MRSA screening and reporting legislation**

Bills requiring require hospitals to screen and publicly report infection rates for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

### **Maryland – SB 837**

Bill Status: Killed in Senate Finance Committee on 3/21.

Bill Sponsor: Sen. Gladden

### ***New law!* Illinois – SB 233**

Bill Status: SB 233 signed by Governor on 8/20.

Bill Sponsor: SB 233: Sen. Radogno

Other Information: The IL law requires all hospitals to establish an MRSA control program to identify all MRSA-colonized ICU patients and patients at risk of carrying MRSA. Hospitals must appropriately isolate MRSA-colonized or infected patients, monitor and strictly enforce hand hygiene compliance, and report cases to the Department of Health for public reporting.

### ***New law!* Minnesota – HF 1078**

Bill Status: Signed by Governor on 5/25/07.

Bill Sponsor(s): Huntley, Thissen, Gritz, Loeffler, Murphy, E, Abeler.

Other Information: The MN budget bill (HF1078, Article 9, Sec. 17) requires every hospital to establish a MRSA control program that meets standards to be recommended by the state Department of Health. These standards must be reviewed annually. Proposed recommendations

[<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/mrsa/rec/index.html>]

for these standards are now published and open for comment until November 1, 2007.

### ***New law!* New Jersey – S2580**

Bill Status: Signed by Governor Corzine on 8/2/07. A4179 substituted by S2580.

Bill Sponsor: S 2580: Sen. Buono

Other Information: The NJ law requires hospitals to implement best practices and effective strategies to prevent hospital-acquired infections in intensive care units (or other high risk units if they have no ICU). These must include identifying patients colonized or infected with MRSA, isolating those patients to prevent transmission to other patients, using contact precautions as defined by the CDC, culturing patients for MRSA upon discharge or transfer, flagging patients who are readmitted, strict adherence to hygiene guidelines, and worker education. Each facility must report the number of cases to the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services.

### ***Active!* New York – S 4346**

Bill Status: Senate Committee on Health; amended 6/1.

Bill Sponsor: Sen. Rath, De Francisco, Flanagan, Golden, Leibell, Maltese, Morahan, Padavan, Trunzo, Wright.

***New law!* Pennsylvania – S968**

Bill Status: Signed by Governor Rendell on July 20, 2007.

Bill Sponsor: Sen. Erickson

Other Information: The PA law requires each hospital and ambulatory surgical facility to develop and implement an infection control plan that includes a system to identify patients colonized or infected with MRSA or other multiple drug resistant organisms (MDRO). This system is to include cultures and screening for nursing home residents coming into the hospital and other high risk patients. The Department of Health is charged with developing the protocols for hospitals to use.

**MRSA Task Force**

***New law!* Tennessee – S 268**

Bill Status: Signed by Governor on 5/15/07. Chapter No. 157.

Bill Sponsor(s): By Senators Haynes, Burks, Marrero, Black and Representatives Moore, Sontany, Pruitt, Gilmore, Sherry Jones, Mike Turner, Hensley, Fitzhugh, Shepard, McDonald, Rowe, Harry Brooks, Campfield

Other Information: Infections task force will meet twice a year to analyze data on the incidence and trend for “invasive MRSA” already reported.

**MRSA Pilot reporting program**

***New law!* Texas – HB 1082**

Bill Status: Signed by Governor Perry on 6/15.

Bill Sponsor(s): Rep. Straus; Sen. Van de Putte

Other Information: Pilot program in Bexar County (San Antonio) requires labs in that area to report cases of MRSA infection to the county; study the feasibility of adding MRSA infections as a reportable condition; track these infections and analyze for sources and ways to prevent; develop a methodology for electronic exchange of information about MRSA infections; report findings to the legislature.