Policy on Management of Patients with Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MRSA) at the College of Dentistry

Extracted from Infection Control Manual, Section 15

Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) and certain gram-negative bacilli (GNB) have important infection control implications.

MDROs are defined as microorganisms, predominantly bacteria, that are resistant to one or more classes of antimicrobial agents.

In most instances, MDRO infections have clinical manifestations that are similar to infections caused by susceptible pathogens. However, options for treating patients with these infections are often extremely limited.

Patients vulnerable to colonization and infection include those with severe disease, especially those with compromised host defenses from underlying medical conditions; recent surgery; or indwelling medical devices (e.g., urinary catheters or endotracheal tubes.)

There is ample epidemiologic evidence to suggest that MDROs are carried from one person to another via the hands of health care provider.

**Screening Patients for MDROs**

1. All patients should be screened for MDRO’s when taking the health history. This is part of the health history.

2. If a patient states that they have an MDRO:
   - Record details on how long they have had the MDRO and whether they are under the care of a physician.
   - Once the determination is made and recorded inform the faculty member in charge and, if necessary, the Office of Patient Services.

**Treating Patients with MDROs**

Due to a lack of proper facilities the College of Dentistry does not treat patients with active MDROs. Patients with urgent care dental needs should be referred to the University of Illinois Medical Center for treatment.
If a patient with an MDRO is in the dental operatory no care is to be provided and the following procedures are to be implemented immediately to prevent the potential spread of the MDRO:

- Standard Precautions and Contact Precautions must be used in order to prevent transmission from potentially colonized patients.
  - Gloves, mask, gown and eye protection
  - Diligent hand hygiene is critical

- If the patient has any active lesions have the patient don a gown and gloves.

- The operator must wear a gown, mask, eye protective device and gloves for all interactions that may involve contact with the patient or potentially contaminated areas in the patient’s environment.
  - Don personal protective equipment
  - Discarding gown and gloves before exiting the operatory, DO NOT move from the operatory wearing potentially contaminated PPE (this includes the gown!).

- Enhanced environmental cleaning after patient care
  - Don new PPE before returning to the operatory
  - Disinfect entire unit, including the outside of the vertical surfaces of walls and cabinets.
  - Disinfect all equipment and place in clean clear plastic bags
  - Remove PPE and discard, perform hand hygiene and put on clean PPE
  - Return bagged instruments and equipment to sterilization
  - Inform sterilization that the equipment was used on a patient with a MDRO.