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**STATE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS TRENDS IN MRSA INFECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL PATIENTS**

SACRAMENTO – Today the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) issued a report examining the increase in Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus infections (MRSA) in California hospital patients. Using OSHPD's hospital patient discharge data, "MRSA Infections in California Hospital Patients 1999-2007" profiles the prevalence of MRSA over an eight year period that saw the rate nearly quadruple from 13,000 cases in 1999 to 52,000 cases in 2007.

"At OSHPD, one of our goals is to help translate the wealth of patient level data we collect and turn it into useful information and drive improvements in the healthcare delivery system," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "The MRSA report is not meant to sound off any sirens, but to provide narrative about the size of the issue, where it is occurring and who it is impacting."

The findings reported include:

- The number of MRSA cases increased from about 13,000 in 1999 to 52,000 in 2007, while non resistant staph cases stayed the same or decreased slightly (at about 30,000 each year).
- The largest increase in MRSA cases came from home admissions into the hospital in the young to mid adult range with skin infections.
- The length of hospital stays for MRSA cases decreased from 21 days in 1999 to 15 days by 2007.
- The percent of MRSA cases that died within 30 days of arriving in a hospital decreased from 35% in 1999 to 24% in 2007.
- The percent of staph aureus cases that were resistant to antibiotics (MRSA) in California increased from 30% in 1999 to 60% in 2007, while nationally MRSA cases increased from 45% to 60%.



MRSA is often referred to as a “super bug” because its infections are resistant to the antibiotic most often administered to control it, methicillin. Approximately one third of the population carries staph infections without illness. Most of these infections are minor showing up as pimples and boils that can be treated without antibiotics. Approximately 1% of the population carries the antibiotic resistant variety known as MRSA.

In 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation (SB 739-Speier) that established the Hospital Infectious Disease Control Program, which places certain requirements on the California Department of Public Health and general acute care hospitals for the surveillance and prevention of healthcare associated infections, including MRSA.

Originally commonly found in hospitals and long-term care facilities, a more virulent strain of MRSA has emerged in the community showing up in healthy people, particularly the young who have not had any contact with a healthcare setting. Its symptoms often cause mild infections on the skin through pimples or boils. MRSA can also cause more serious skin infections or infect surgical wounds, the bloodstream, the lungs, or the urinary tract.

As one of thirteen departments within California’s Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is committed to “Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.” OSHPD analyzes and supports the state’s healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical care transparency for Californians. OSHPD also supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures safety of buildings used to provide healthcare, insures loans to develop healthcare facilities, and facilitates development of a sustained capacity for communities to address their healthcare concerns.

The study on “MRSA Infections in California Hospital Patients 1999-2007” is now available online at www.oshpd.ca.gov