



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

1000 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 267-8000

David J. Kears, Director
Anthony Iton, MD, Director

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer

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Re: Clarification of California Department of Public Health Feb. 14, 2008 press release requiring reporting of all severe staph infections

Although the State's Press Release announces the mandatory reporting of "Severe MRSA" it actually mandates reporting of **all severe Staph** cases in a previously healthy person resulting in death or ICU admission. That means that **M**ethicillin **S**ensitive **S**taph **a**ureus (MSSA) cases are also reportable if the patient fits the case definition of being a "previously healthy person" and died or was admitted to an ICU as a result of their Staph infection. The definition of a "previously healthy person" is a person "who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or cutaneous medical device at the time of culture." The language below will be added to Sections 2500 and 2502 in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations:

◆ *Staphylococcus aureus* infection (only a case resulting in death or admission to an intensive care unit of a person who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture.)

NOTE: If a patient has a diagnosis of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), that case should still be reported as a case of TSS, and not as a severe Staph infection discussed above. TSS is much more uncommon, can be due to Staph or Strep, requires additional clinical criteria before a clinician calls it TSS, and is of concern enough that the state wants to track them separately.

The new, Severe Staph Aureus specific Case Report Form is currently in the process of being developed and will be posted as soon as it is released by the State Department of Public Health.

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer