

New Jersey SB 2580 signed into law (includes MRSA)

Today, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine signed Senate Bill 2580 into law. The bill language states that within one month after the effective date of

this act, all general hospitals licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services shall implement an infection prevention program in their

intensive care units, and if the hospital has no intensive care unit, then in another high-risk unit such as a surgical unit, or other units where

there is significant risk of facility-acquired infections. Ultimately, the hospital shall expand the infection prevention program to all areas of the

hospital, with the exception of an inpatient psychiatric unit. The expansion of the infection prevention program shall be completed as quickly as

feasible, taking into account the hospital's patient population, physical plant and other facility-specific circumstances. In addition, the hospital

shall incorporate the following:

- ~ identification and isolation of both colonized and infected patients by screening patients upon admission in order to break the chain of transmission
- ~ contact precautions for patients found to be MRSA positive, as "contract precautions" is defined by the CDC
- ~ patient cultures for MRSA upon discharge or transfer from the unit where the infection prevention program has been implemented, and flagging of
- ~ patients who are readmitted to the hospital
- ~ strict adherence to hygiene guidelines
- ~ a written infection prevention and control policy with input from frontline caregivers

~ a worker education requirement regarding modes of transmission of MRSA, use of protective equipment, disinfection policies and procedures, and

other preventative measures

Hospitals must report to the Department of Health and Senior Services, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, the

number of cases of hospital-acquired MRSA that occur in its facility.

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/S3000/2580_R1.PDF

This act takes effect on the 30th day after enactment.