**Routine Use of Contact Precautions for MRSA and VRE: Which Way is the Pendulum Swinging?**

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**BACKGROUND:**
- Contact Precautions (CP) is an IP cornerstone.
- Horizontal interventions such as CHG bathing and UVC disinfection have gained traction.
- Studies have increasingly suggested that CP may have risks that outweigh its benefits.

**OBJECTIVE:**
- Assess present state of CP for MRSA and VRE in U.S. hospitals.

**DESIGN:**
- Cross-sectional survey

**METHODS:**
- Electronic survey, 8 questions, open 3 weeks

**STUDY POPULATION:**
- 362 physician members of the EIN
- Interest or involvement in infection prevention

**RESULTS:**
- 751 surveyed, 429 responded, 67 excluded
- CP for MRSA (93%) and VRE (92%)
- 85% perform CHG bathing
- 64% perform S. aureus decolonization with mupirocin

- 23% use H2O2 vapor or UVC light at discharge.
- Respondents who do not use routine CP for MRSA and VRE are more likely to be from Region 3 (p=0.001) and non-university teaching hospitals (p=0.045). There were no differences with respect to CHG, mupirocin, UVC/H2O2 or ATP monitoring.

**CONCLUSIONS:**
- Routine CP for MRSA and VRE remains commonplace although horizontal interventions such as CHG bathing are widely used.
- Heterogeneity of practices was striking; may be guided by perceived regulatory pressure.
- Evidence-based guidelines from professional organizations regarding CP and horizontal interventions are needed.

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**Table 1: Population Characteristics**
- More than 1 respondent per facility
- 85
- 23% use H2O2 vapor or decolonization with UVC surveyed, 429 responded, 67 excluded
- UCLA Health Clinical Epidemiology and Infection Prevention, Los Angeles, CA, 50%
- Contact
- 40
- 80
- Electronic survey, from last sampling/nonresponse bias
- 60
- 10%
- 18% considering tailoring/stopping CP
- 4% asking for clear guidance from CDC

**Figure 2: Mortality Rates**
- 362
- 64
- 20
- 70
- 40% from last hospital stay.

**ADJUNCTIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE RISK OF TRANSMISSION:**

**MUPIROCIN**
- Surgical pre-op 50%
- S. aureus 21%
- ICU 5%
- Dialysis 5%
- Other 38% (variation)

**CHG BATHING**
- ICU patients 73%
- Surgical pre-op 55%
- Central lines 15%
- Other 20% (variation)

**COMMENTS REVEAL:**
- 18% considering tailoring/stopping CP
- 11% cite regulatory pressure/politics as reason for continuing CP
- 6% concern re: material resources
- 4% asking for clear guidance from CDC

**LIMITATIONS:**
- Sampling/nonresponse bias
- More than 1 respondent per facility possible
- Answers to questions not required