

with an affected child. Also emphasize hand washing to both the child and the family. For many bacterial infections and for MRSA infection in particular, the child should be provided with washcloths and towels separate from those of other family members. The child's pajamas, underwear, and other clothes should be changed daily and washed in hot water. Razors used for shaving should be discarded after each use and not shared. To prevent recurrence, some infectious disease specialists recommend bathing in a chlorine bath once or twice weekly. A 5-minute soak of 2.5 ml of bleach diluted in 13 gallons of water, or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of bleach diluted in a standard 50-gallon tub one fourth filled with water, could decrease community-acquired MRSA colonies by more than 99.9% (Fisher, Chan, Hair, et al, 2008; Kaplan, 2008). In addition, mupirocin can be applied to the nares of patients and families twice daily for 1 to 2 weeks to prevent reinfection (Alter, Vidwan, Sobande, et al, 2011). Daily bathing or showering with an antibacterial soap is also recommended.

Children and parents are often tempted to squeeze follicular lesions. They must be warned that squeezing will not hasten the resolution of the infection and that there is a risk of making the lesion worse or spreading the infection. Children should not puncture the surface of the pustule with a needle or sharp instrument. A child with a styne may awaken with the eyelids of the affected eye sealed shut with exudate. Instruct the child or the parents to gently wipe the lid from the inner to the outer edge with warm water and a clean washcloth until the exudate has been removed.

The child with limited cellulitis of an extremity is usually managed at home on a regimen of oral antibiotics and warm compresses. Teach the parents the procedures and instruct them in administration of the medication. Children with more extensive cellulitis, especially around a joint with lymphadenitis or on the face, or with lesions larger than 5 cm (2 inches), are usually admitted to the hospital for parenteral antibiotics, incision, and drainage. Nurses are responsible for teaching the family to administer the medication and to apply compresses.

Viral Infections