**Purpose:**

To provide essential information about Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection, including its symptoms, prevention, and treatment measures. This document aims to educate patients, visitors, and healthcare providers on how to prevent the spread of MRSA and ensure effective care and safety within the hospital environment.

**Procedures:**

1. **Understanding MRSA:**
   * **Definition:**
     + Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) is a common germ found on the skin or in the nose. MRSA is a type of Staph that is resistant to many antibiotics.
   * **Symptoms:**
     + Can cause serious infections like skin or wound infections, pneumonia, or bloodstream infections.
2. **Who is at Risk:**
   * People with other health conditions
   * Hospitalized patients or those in nursing homes
   * Patients treated with antibiotics
3. **Transmission:**
   * MRSA can spread via contaminated surfaces, medical equipment, or person-to-person contact.
4. **Treatment:**
   * Antibiotics effective against MRSA
   * Surgery may be needed for abscesses
5. **Prevention Measures in Hospitals:**
   * **Hygiene:**
     + Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before and after caring for patients
   * **Environmental Cleaning:**
     + Clean hospital rooms and medical equipment used for MRSA patients
   * **Contact Precautions:**
     + Isolate patients with MRSA or share rooms only with other MRSA patients
     + Healthcare providers to wear gloves and gowns when caring for patients with MRSA
     + Visitors must also wear gloves and gowns when in patient rooms
6. **Patient Guidance:**
   * **Hospital Stay:**
     + Stay in hospital rooms as much as possible
     + Avoid common areas like the gift shop or cafeteria
   * **Medication:**
     + Only take antibiotics when necessary and as prescribed
7. **Preventing MRSA Infections:**
   * Ensure healthcare providers clean their hands before and after caring for you
   * Clean your own hands often, especially after using the bathroom and before eating
   * Only take antibiotics as prescribed
8. **Visitor Guidelines:**
   * Visitors unlikely to get MRSA if not hospitalized
   * Clean hands before and after visiting
   * Ask nurse if protective gear is needed
9. **Post-Hospital Care:**
   * Follow prescription instructions carefully
   * Continue hygiene practices at home
   * Clean and bandage wounds properly
   * Report any new infections to your doctor immediately