

Preventing Transmission of MRSA in the Hospital Setting

Patricia A. Pearson RN, CIC
Infection Prevention & Control
Synergy / St. Joseph's Hospital

Patient Safety



Hand Hygiene

- Before patient contact
- After patient contact
- Before invasive procedures, e.g. starting and IV
- After removing gloves
- Whenever hands are visibly soiled

The importance of this in preventing the transmission of infections cannot be stressed enough.



How it Works

- Care providers are expected to cleanse their hands upon entering the patient room in view of the patient.
- Standardization of patient room design allows the patient to view the hand hygiene station.
- Patients and families are educated on the importance of good hand hygiene and that “it’s OK to ask” their care provider to cleanse their hands if they do not observe it being done.

Screening For MRSA

- Done by Risk Factors
 - History of MRSA
 - Resident of LTC
 - Current implanted devices
 - Recent prolonged hospitalization for serious illness
 - Current skin or soft tissue infections
 - Prolonged treatment with ABX in past 30 days

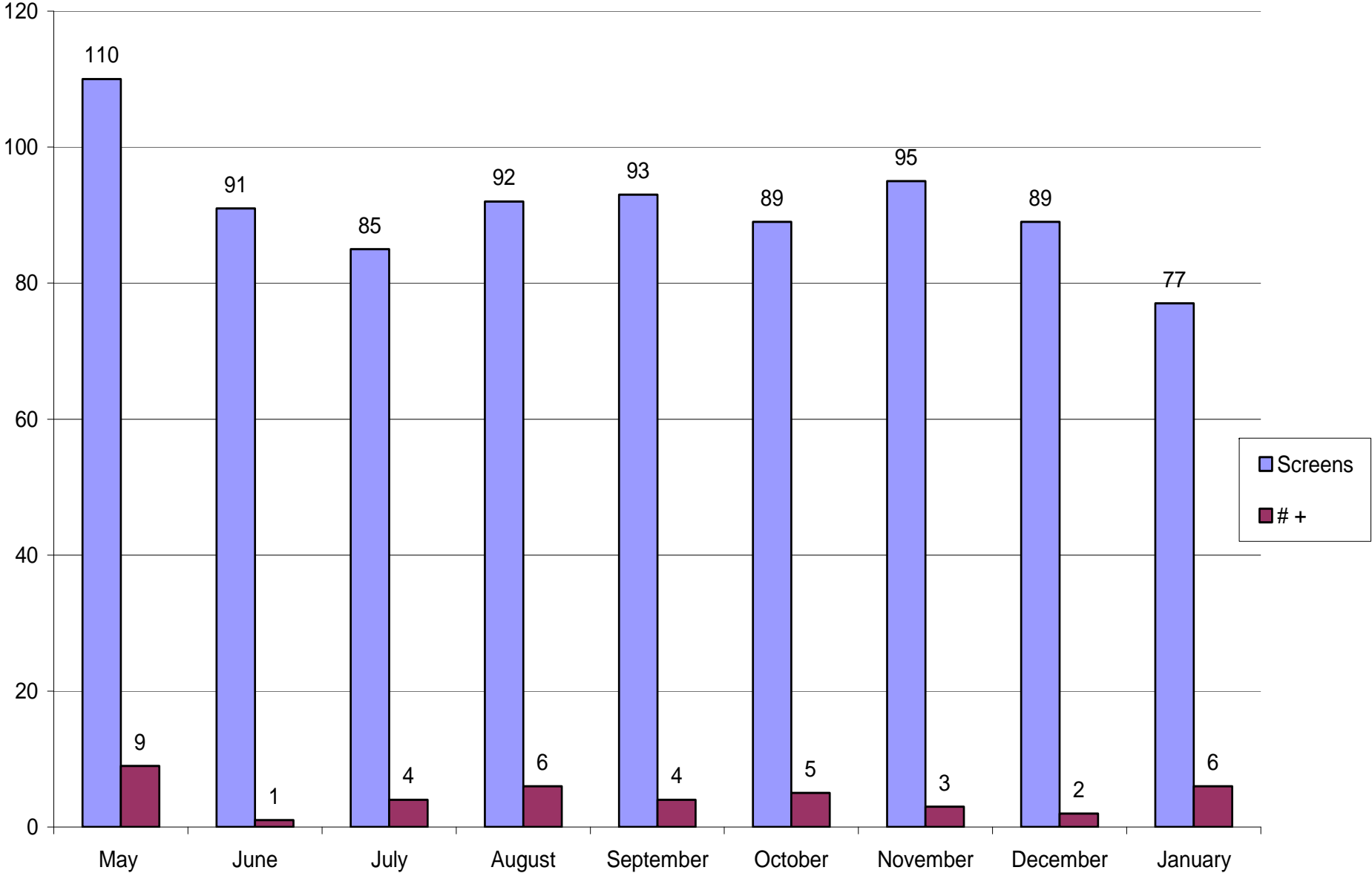
Place in contact precautions & obtain nares swab.

Why we do Active Surveillance Cultures (ASC)

- > 50 % of Staph aureus cultures are now resistant (MRSA)
- MRSA is difficult to treat
- We want to know who is colonized when they enter our facility so we can isolate and prevent transmission of this “super bug” to other patients
- Hand hygiene, isolation, barrier precautions and proper cleaning & disinfection of the environment and equipment have been proven to prevent transmission.

**MRSA Screening
May 2007- February 2008**

**Overall % positive= 5%
821/40**

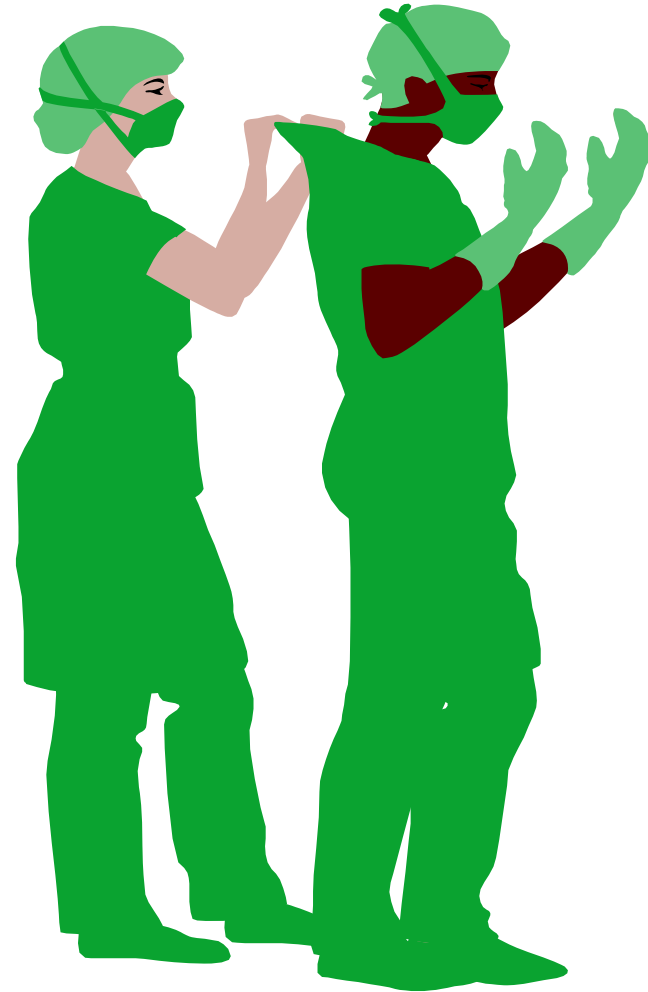


Isolation Precautions

- We follow Standard Precautions for the care of all patients.
- We add Contact Precautions for patients suspected of, or known to be infected with MRSA.
- Requires the use of gloves and gowns in addition to proper hand hygiene. It may include wearing a mask if the infection is in the respiratory tract.

Use of Barrier Precautions

- Gowns, gloves and sometimes masks are used to protect the healthcare worker and to prevent transmission of microorganisms
- Patient care employees are trained on this

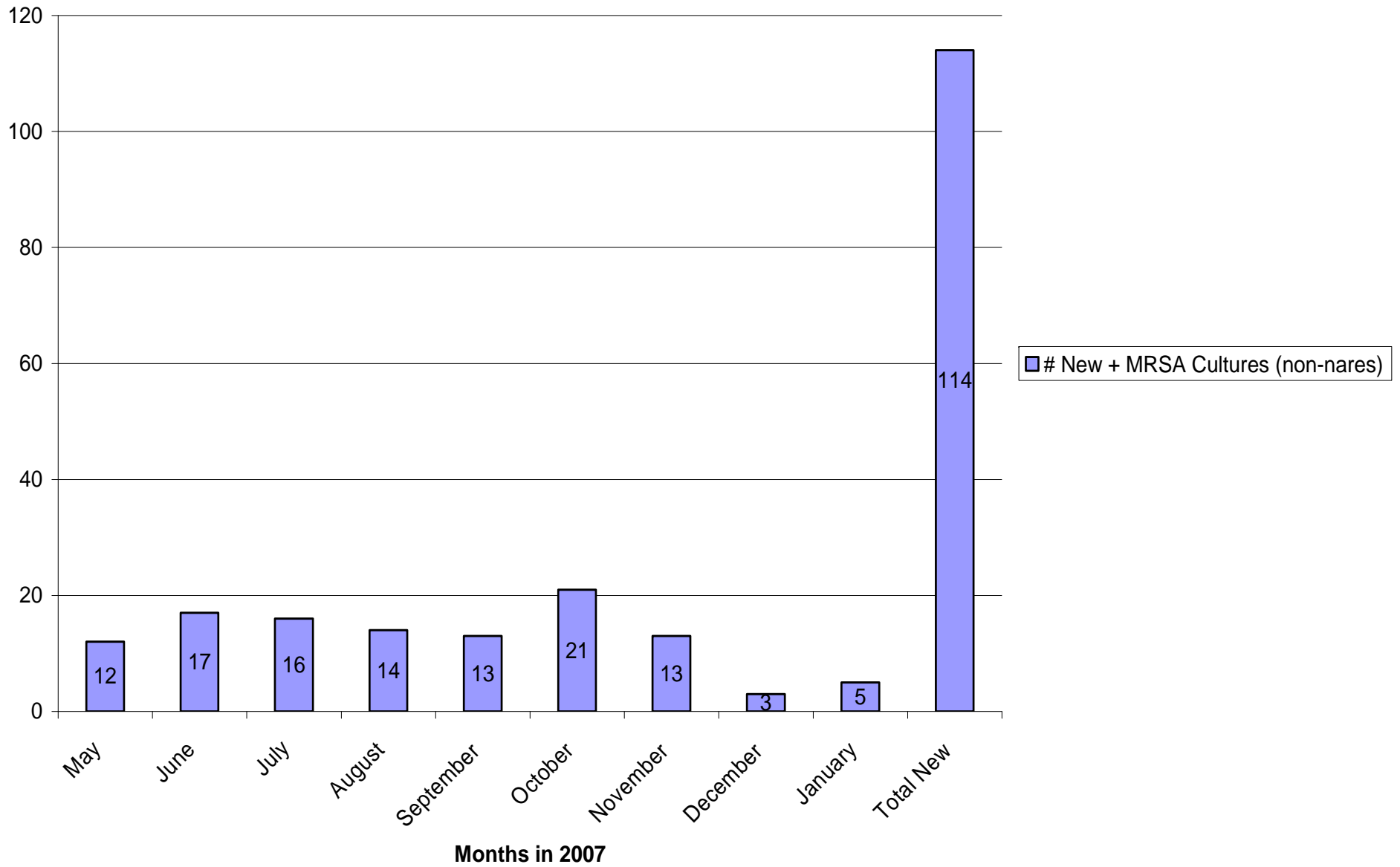


Identification of Known Infectious Patients

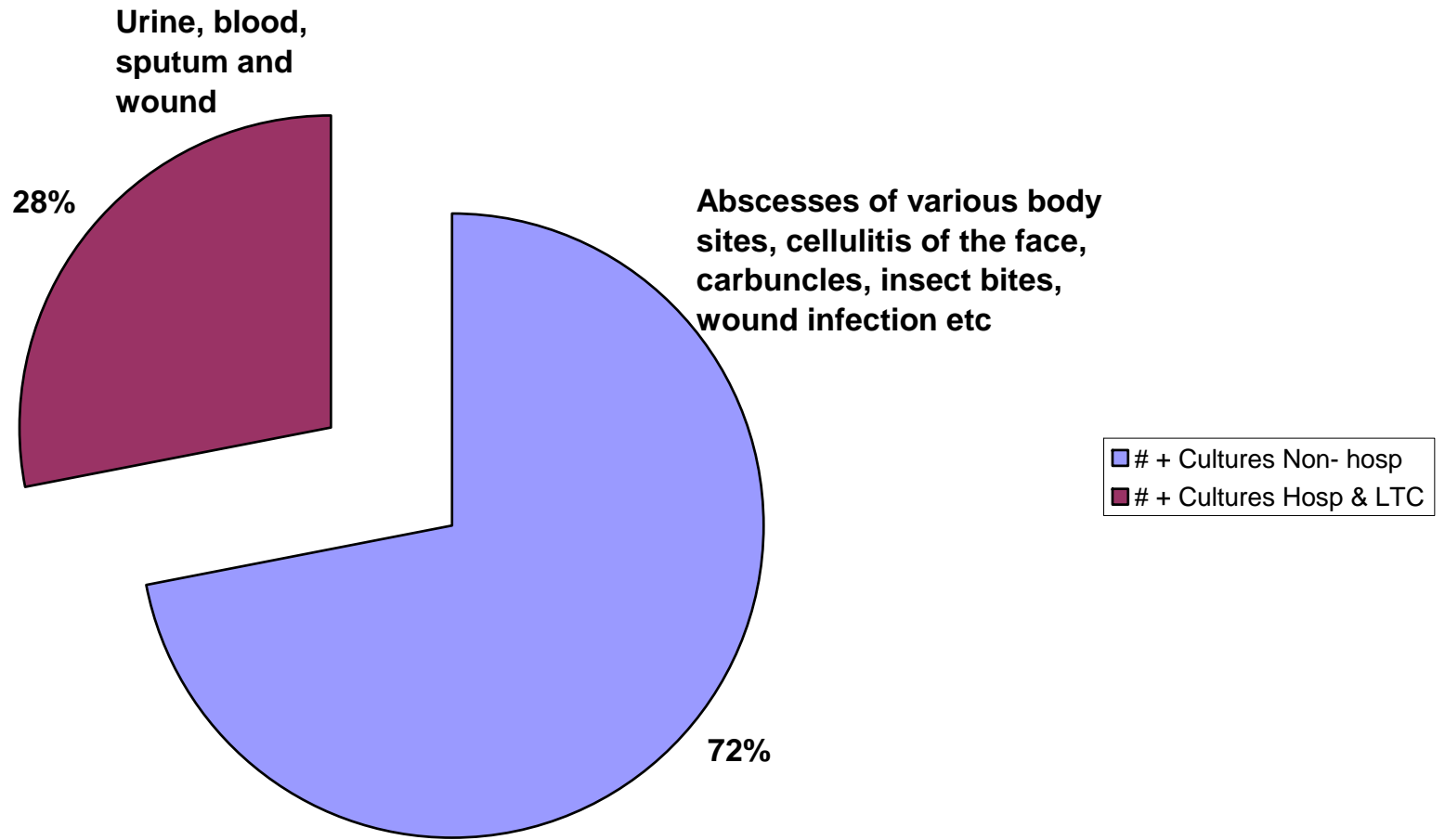
- Microbiology keeps a list of patients with a history of MRSA
- This information was put into EPIC (our electronic Medical Record)
- Infection control is notified of any ***newly identified patients*** and puts this information into EPIC
- Healthcare workers access this information by checking the EPIC record of their patients

Communication regarding this history is very important prior to transferring them to another department or facility or when scheduling procedures.

New + MRSA Cultures
May 2007- February 2008
(Non-Nares ASC)



MRSA Positive Cultures May 2007- February 2008



Questions and Concerns