MRSA Outbreak!

In this exercise the students take on the role of a member of the infection control team working within a hospital. The infection control team need to find out how the outbreak of the ‘superbug’ MRSA has occurred and advise on specific measures that could be implemented to prevent further outbreaks of this hospital acquired infection.

By the end of the activity students will understand:

- What MRSA is
- How the pathogen is transmitted
- Which environmental factors contribute to its transmission
- Antibiotic resistance
- Good hygiene
- How an outbreak of MRSA could be prevented
- How an outbreak of MRSA could be controlled

Task

This activity could be carried out in lesson time; for example one hour to complete the research and one hour to present to the class. Alternatively the research could be set as homework.

- Place students into groups of 4
- Give each group the handout
- In addition, one student must be a team leader who co-ordinates the research

The students must carry out research to find out how the outbreak of MRSA occurred and advise on specific measures that they could take to prevent further outbreaks of this hospital acquired infection.

The students could then present their findings using one of the formats listed below:

- A poster for an MRSA awareness campaign
- A written report to the hospital board advising on a programme of deep cleaning and staff retraining in order to minimise spread of the ‘superbug’
- An information leaflet to be given to hospital staff for training purposes.