

## UNDERSTANDING AND REDUCING HOSPITAL INFECTIONS CAUSED BY MRSA

- Research found reduced levels of MRSA in patients and the environment of Beaumont Hospital over a four-year period.
- Screening all at-risk patients dramatically improves MRSA detection rates.
- Molecular testing of samples for MRSA gives rapid results and supports the more efficient use of isolation rooms.

- State-of-the art molecular techniques permit detailed analysis of MRSA strains in hospitals and allow for the rapid identification of new strains that may be better adapted to cause infection.
- An evaluation of decontamination agents showed that agents such as Ecasol are rapidly effective at destroying MRSA in the environment, but do not have the disadvantages of hydrogen peroxide.



**“Over the four years of the study there was a decline in the number of samples that we took from the environment that were positive for MRSA.”**

Prof Hilary Humphreys – Beaumont Hospital consultant microbiologist.

The study was carried out with the Dublin Dental School and Hospital Microbiology Unit, Trinity College Dublin, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the National MRSA Reference Laboratory based at St. James's Hospital.

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