

Episode of healthcare-associated *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Glossary Item
METEOR identifier: 590503
Registration status:

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

Definition: A patient episode of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) is a positive blood culture for *Staphylococcus aureus*.
For surveillance purposes, only the first isolate per patient is counted, unless at least 14 days has passed without a positive blood culture, after which an additional episode is recorded.

A SAB will be considered to be a healthcare-associated event if either:

CRITERION A: The patient's first positive *Staphylococcus aureus* blood culture is collected more than 48 hours after hospital admission or less than 48 hours after discharge.

OR

CRITERION B: The patient's first *Staphylococcus aureus* positive blood culture is collected less than or equal to 48 hours after admission to hospital and the patient-episode of SAB meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. SAB is a complication of the presence of an indwelling medical device (e.g. intravascular line, haemodialysis vascular access, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunt, urinary catheter)
2. SAB occurs within 30 days of a surgical procedure where the SAB is related to the surgical site
3. SAB was diagnosed within 48 hours of a related invasive instrumentation or incision
4. SAB is associated with neutropenia contributed to by cytotoxic therapy. Neutropenia is defined as at least two separate calendar days with values of absolute neutrophil count (ANC) or total white blood cell count (WBC) <500 cells/mm³ (0.5×10^9 / L) on or within a seven-day time period which includes the date the positive blood specimen was collected (Day 1), the 3 calendar days before and the 3 calendar days after.

If none of these criteria are met, then the episode of SAB is considered to be community-acquired for the purposes of surveillance.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Reference documents: ACSQHC (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care), unpublished. Endorsed amendments to the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) Data set specification (DSS). Sydney: ACSQHC.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Episode of healthcare-associated *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 10/06/2022

Metadata items which use this glossary item:

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.2–Healthcare-associated Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections, 2019](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 09/04/2020

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.2–Healthcare-associated Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections, 2020](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021

[Establishment—number of healthcare-associated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus \(MRSA\) bacteraemia patient episodes](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[Establishment—number of healthcare-associated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus \(MRSA\) bacteraemia patient episodes, total episodes N\[NNNN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[Establishment—number of healthcare-associated Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus \(MSSA\) bacteraemia patient episodes](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[Establishment—number of healthcare-associated Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus \(MSSA\) bacteraemia patient episodes, total episodes N\[NNNN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[Establishment—Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia surveillance indicator](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[Healthcare-associated infections NBEDS 2016-](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 10/06/2022

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 22–Healthcare associated infections: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia, 2020](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/03/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 22–Healthcare associated infections: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia, 2021](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 22–Healthcare associated infections: Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia, 2022](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021