

Staphylococcus aureus (Golden Staph) bloodstream (SAB) infections



A bloodstream infection caused by *S.aureus* can be very serious, with up to 30% mortality.

For this reason these infections are monitored across the whole hospital, and in fact are one of the few infections currently monitored nationally. All states are expected to collect data (for public hospitals) on these infections using agreed definitions and submit it to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare each year. VICNISS is responsible for monitoring these infections in Victoria and has been doing so since 2010.

SAB can occur in the community (for example through an infected wound) or as a result of treatment in hospital (e.g. insertion of a catheter into a vein). While both types are important, the infections occurring as a result of treatment in hospital are singled out for monitoring as these are often preventable with best practice and good infection control.

S. aureus is a common bacterium and is often found on the skin of healthy people. Some strains have become resistant to certain classes of antibiotics and these can be harder to treat. For example some *S.aureus* strains are resistant to commonly used antibiotics and these are known as MRSA (Methicillin resistant *S.aureus*).

Information about rates of SAB infection in Victoria can be found:

**vicniss.org.au/resources/annual-reports/
vicniss.org.au/resources/surveillance-data-for-victoria/
vahi.vic.gov.au/quality-and-safety/healthcare-associated-infections**