

**Susan Manganello**  
**11 Chaplin Street**  
**Newington CT**

Good afternoon Senator Handley and Representative Sayers and others who sit on this distinguished committee.

As a healthcare worker, I am an RN, I know that necessary precautions are not being taken in our hospitals to stop the spread of MRSA. There is dirty equipment going from patient to patient, health care workers are not always washing their hands and sometimes, patients are not getting catheters and intubation tubes removed when they should be. These are open invitations for an infection.

My daughter, Jennifer, was in a compromised state when she was hospitalized but was infection free for one and one half weeks. She developed three infections, one of which was considered fatal. But she survived that one. It was MRSA that became untreatable. Medication could not prevent the constant recurrence of MRSA. It led to her death.

Our hospitals need to screen for MRSA. Most of these infections are preventable. I ask you, for the sake of all of us, to insist that screening be included in the hospital plan of action. It is not complicated and attached to my testimony today is one company's fact sheet showing the ease of this newly approved FDA test for MRSA. In just 72 minutes, hospitals can be alerted if a patient is colonized with this potentially deadly infection..

## The Xpert™ MRSA advantage: Simplicity

- Fully automated process reduces handling time to just minutes
- Random access for flexibility and workflow optimization
- Rapid results to improve patient management
- Fully integrated reagent and instrument system for accuracy and reproducibility

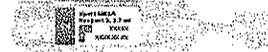
1. Insert swab into Elution reagent vial and break at score



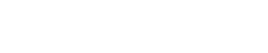
2. Vortex and dispense Sample into port S



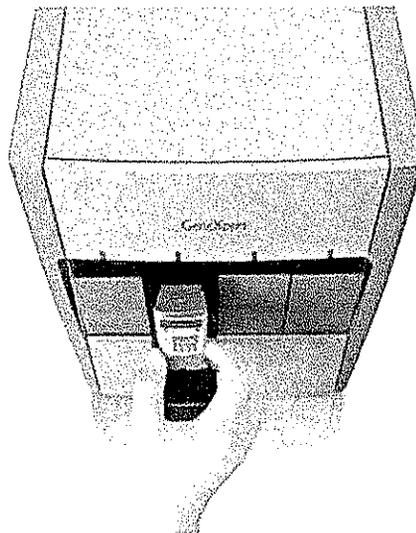
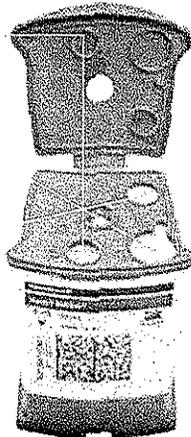
3. Dispense Reagent 1 into port 1



4. Dispense Reagent 2 into port 2



 Total hands-on time = 2 minutes



5. Insert cartridge and start assay

## Ordering Information

Xpert™ MRSA ..... Catalog No. GXMRSA-100N-10  
(10 Cartridges with reagents)

### References

1. 5 Million Lives Campaign "Getting Started Kit: Reduce Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection," Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2007
2. Kuehnert, M.J. et al, "Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*-related hospitalizations, United States", *Emerging Infect Dis.* 2005; 11:868-872
3. Siegel, Jane, et al, "Management of Multidrug-Resistant Organisms in Healthcare Settings, 2007," Center for Disease Control, 2007
4. Muto, Carlene, et al, "SHEA Guideline for Preventing Nosocomial Transmission of Multidrug-Resistant Strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus*". *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2003; 24:362-386
5. "Guide to the Elimination of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Transmission in Hospital Settings" APIC Guide, March 2007

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#### CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

304 CARIBBEAN DRIVE  
SUNNYVALE, CA 94089  
USA  
TOLL FREE: 1-888-336-2743  
PHONE: 1-408-541-4191  
FAX: 1-408-734-1346

#### EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS

VIRA SOLEILH  
81470 MAURENS-SCOPEL  
FRANCE  
PHONE: 33-563-82-53-00  
FAX: 33-563-82-53-01



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