

# Staphylococcus Aureus Infections in the NICU

**Background:** *Staphylococcus (Staph) aureus* is a bacteria that can cause serious infections in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). These include infections of the bloodstream, skin, and umbilical cord, all of which can result in significant complications for this fragile patient population.

**Initiative:** Implement a comprehensive set of practices, called a *bundle*, including hand hygiene, triple dye to the umbilical cord, frequent cleaning of bedside surfaces and linens, and increased use of central lines, to prevent *Staph aureus* infections.

**Goal:** Zero *Staph aureus* infections

**Outcome:** The number of *Staph aureus* infections in the NICU has dropped significantly. Efforts will continue in 2009 to eliminate these infections.

