

# IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

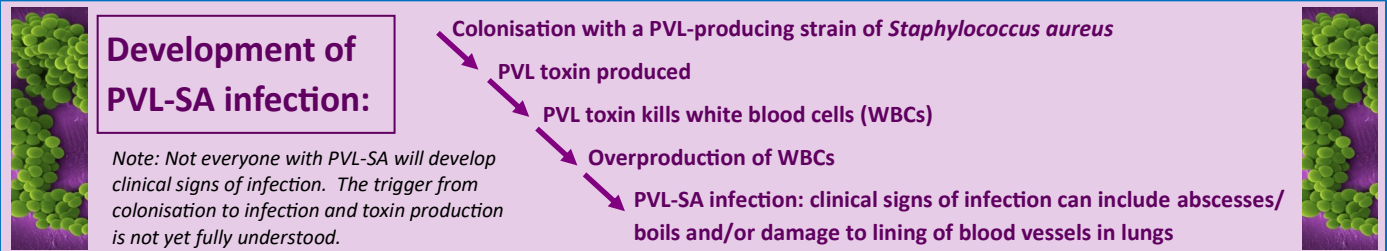
## Issue No. 52 - March 2024



Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.

### PVL-SA (Panton-Valentine Leukocidin *Staphylococcus aureus*)

Approximately one in every three people carry *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA) either on their skin or in their nose without it causing an infection. Some strains, although less than 2% of *Staphylococcus aureus* strains, including MRSA, can however produce a toxin called PVL. These strains are known as PVL-SA and cause infection ranging from mild, localised boils and abscesses to life threatening invasive necrotising haemorrhagic pneumonia.



### 10 key facts about PVL-SA

1. PVL-SA is most likely to affect young healthy adults.
2. Risk factors for PVL-SA include the 5 C's: **Contaminated** shared items (towels), close **Contact** (contact sports), **Crowding** (closed communities), **Cleanliness** (personal or environmental) and **Compromised** skin integrity (eczema).
3. Outbreaks and clusters of PVL-SA can occur in community settings, such as military barracks, gyms and sports facilities.
4. PVL-SA should be suspected in patients with recurrent abscesses or boils.
5. If suspected, request PVL-SA testing on the specimen request form as this is not a routine laboratory test.
6. A specimen of pus from an abscess or boil is more accurate than a wound swab for identifying PVL-SA.
7. Antibiotics are not always necessary for minor skin and soft tissue PVL-SA infections. Incision and drainage is the optimal management for abscesses.
8. Once an acute PVL-SA infection has resolved, the patient and their household/close contacts may require suppression treatment. Your local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team will undertake an assessment and advise if suppression treatment is required.
9. PVL-SA colonisation can persist for years if suppression treatment is not correctly applied.
10. Patients with PVL-SA infection attending for a procedure, such as a wound dressing should be scheduled at the end of a session to allow time for adequate cleaning of care equipment and the care environment.

#### References:

- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a749fb7e5274a44083b82c1/Guidance\\_on\\_the\\_diagnosis\\_and\\_management\\_of\\_PVL\\_associated\\_SA\\_infections\\_in\\_England\\_2\\_Ed.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a749fb7e5274a44083b82c1/Guidance_on_the_diagnosis_and_management_of_PVL_associated_SA_infections_in_England_2_Ed.pdf)
- [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/pvl-sa-staphylococcus-aureus-general-practice-infection-prevention-control/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/pvl-sa-staphylococcus-aureus-general-practice-infection-prevention-control/)

#### What's new

- **Hot off the press:** Updated 'IPC CQC inspection preparation Pack for General Practice'. Includes both new and improved resources to assist in providing evidence of compliance with the *Code of practice*, also helps to meet CQC registration requirements and includes downloadable Audit Tools which can be completed electronically. Further details available at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cqc-ipc-cqc-inspection-preparation-pack-for-general-practice/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cqc-ipc-cqc-inspection-preparation-pack-for-general-practice/)
- **Don't forget:** The 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for General Practice' is also available to assist with annual IPC training updates. Details available at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/preventing-infection-workbook-and-guidance-for-general-practice/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/preventing-infection-workbook-and-guidance-for-general-practice/).
- **Now available:** Inter-health and social care infection control transfer Form is available from our website which can be completed electronically.

#### IPC Training events for General Practice 2024

**15<sup>th</sup> April** (last few places available)

**11<sup>th</sup> November**

A booking form can be downloaded at:

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/)

Visit our website:

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

Call us on **01423 557340**

