Patients admitted to critical care units are at high risk for increased morbidity and mortality from skin and deep wound infections. Antimicrobial resistance rates are higher because of the widespread use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, multiple invasive procedures, and transmission of multiple drug-resistant bacteria between patients.  

Staphylococcus aureus is part of the normal skin flora found on 20% to 50% of healthy adults. In hospitals, S aureus is the major cause of acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections, especially surgical site infections. S aureus isolates increased from 35,553 isolates in 1996 to 190,654 isolates in 2008 in United States hospitals, a ~5.4-fold increase. Methicillin-resistant S aureus (MRSA) isolates accounted for...