



PROJECT **FIRSTLINE** JOURNAL CLUB

Project Firstline's curated journal club series draws on published, open access research examining important infection control topics for the healthcare workforce. Use the discussion questions below or create your own. Please check CDC.gov for the latest data and recommendations on infection control topics affecting the healthcare workforce.



Article:

[Invasive Group A Streptococcus in a Skilled Nursing Facility — Pennsylvania, 2009-2010](#)

In 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Health identified 13 cases of invasive Group A Streptococcus (GAS) infection that represented one of the largest and most prolonged invasive GAS outbreaks in a skilled nursing facility. The investigation identified multiple lapses in infection prevention and control practices by staff that led to spread of invasive GAS among facility residents, including ineffective hand hygiene practices and not following Contact Precautions.



Discussion:

Understanding and analyzing the article:

- What is the purpose of this article? If provided, identify the main research questions and hypotheses.
- Who are the authors and what are their affiliations (who they work for or who funded the research) and credentials (degrees or professional experience)?
- Do any of the authors have affiliations that could influence the outcome of the study due to a conflict of interest?
- When was the article published, and is the information still timely and relevant to the topic? Why or why not?
- What background information is important to understanding this topic?
- What study design or research methods were used?
- What were the main findings of the paper and how do the authors support their interpretation of the findings?
- What are the strengths and limitations of this article?
- What main conclusions and calls to action are presented?

Continue the discussion:

- The article makes observations about steps that skilled nursing facilities can take to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as GAS. Discuss steps that you would recommend for a different type of healthcare facility. Which of the steps in the article would you modify for this setting, and how would you go about modifying them? What challenges would you possibly encounter when implementing these steps?
- The article describes monitoring healthcare worker adherence to infection control protocols. What factors should be considered when evaluating healthcare worker adherence?
- What are the body reservoirs for GAS, and what actions are needed to prevent spread?