

## Supplementary material:

**Table 1:** Oligonucleotide primers and TaqMan probes used in the duplex real-time PCR assay for *femB* and *mecA* genes in MRSA.

Oligonucleotide	Sequence (5'-3')
<b>femVIC</b>	TCATCAGTICAAGGAATCGACTTTAACACCATAG
<b>femB1</b>	GACATTGATAGTCAACGTAAACGTAATAT
<b>femB2</b>	GCTCTTCAGTTTCACGATATAAATCTAAGA
<b>MecFAM</b>	TTCCAGGAATGCAGAAAGACCAAAGCA
<b>MecA1</b>	AGTTAGATTGGGATCATAGCGTCAT
<b>MecA2</b>	TGGCCAATTCACATTGTTTC

**Table 2:** Duplex PCR amplification for the *mecA* and *femB* genes from 100 MRSA strains and 35 strains of other bacterial genera

Phenotype of strains†	<i>fem B</i>		<i>mecA</i>	
	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
99 MRSA	+	+	+	+
1 MRSA‡	+	+	+	-
10 MSSA	+	+	-	-
5 MRSE	-	-	+	+
5 MSSE	-	-	-	-
15 others	-	-	-	-

**Keys:** +, Positive; -, Negative; †, As provided by staff at the MRI Clinical Bacteriology Laboratory; ‡, Unexpected results