

**Table S3: Transfer of plasmid pBTn via electroporation and transduction mediated by phages 187 and E72.**

<i>S. epidermidis</i> strain	ST type	Transfer via electroporation	Transduction rate	
			phage 187	phage E72
E12	19	ns	ns	ns
E14	new type	ns	ns	ns
E16	457	ns	ns	ns
E18	65	ns	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-6}$
E20	153	ns	$7.0 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.1 \times 10^{-8}$
E21	130	yes	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$6.6 \times 10^{-8}$
E23	795	ns	ns	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
E24	73	ns	$1.3 \times 10^{-7}$	ns
E28	5	ns	ns	ns
E30	5	yes	ns	ns
E31	5	ns	ns	$1.6 \times 10^{-6}$
E33	640	ns	ns	$1.7 \times 10^{-6}$
E34	new type	yes	ns	$1.9 \times 10^{-6}$
E43	327	yes	$5.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
E44	new type	yes	$5.2 \times 10^{-8}$	ns
E46	944	yes	ns	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
E47	89	ns	$6.0 \times 10^{-8}$	ns
E53	2	yes	ns	$6.7 \times 10^{-8}$
E55	new type	ns	ns	ns
E57	5	ns	$1.8 \times 10^{-8}$	ns
E63	66	ns	ns	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
E64	5	yes	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-6}$
E65	5	ns	ns	ns
E66	5	yes	$3.0 \times 10^{-7}$	ns
E72	5	ns	ns	$1.1 \times 10^{-8}$
E77	73	ns	$5.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-8}$
E88	2	ns	ns	$4.0 \times 10^{-6}$
E89	5	yes	ns	ns
E90	new type	ns	ns	$3.3 \times 10^{-6}$
E91	5	ns	ns	$1.1 \times 10^{-7}$
E95	35	yes	ns	$8.4 \times 10^{-8}$
E97	736	ns	$1.8 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-6}$
E98	5	ns	ns	$2.3 \times 10^{-7}$
E102	130	ns	ns	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
E103	130	ns	ns	ns
E108	new type	ns	ns	ns
E113	981	ns	ns	ns

The ratio of transduction is presented as the number of transductants per ml phage lysate relative to the transducing phage titer; each transduction was carried out in triplicates and the average rate is provided. ns – transfer not successful.