Letters to the Editor

Prior Publication of Data

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent Infection *Control and Hospital Epidemiology* editorial policy statement regarding duplicate publication.' In the same issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, we published a manuscript relating to healthcare workers' occupational exposures to blood and other body fluids.2 We had published previously a paper describing the same data base as an invited paper in an acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) issue of a subspecialty nursing journal.[3] We were simply trying to disseminate this information to populations of individuals who might benefit from it.

In light of the new editorial policy statement, I thought we should make certain that *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* was aware of the invited publication in the *Journal of Nurse Midwifery*. Had we had access to the policy statement prior to submission or publication of our paper, we would have submitted the earlier paper with our *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* submission.

David K. Henderson, MD
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

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Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Long-Term Care Facilities

To the Editor:

The recent article "Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Long-Term Care Facilities" by Kauffman and colleagues' provides an excellent review of the available information about this problem. In addition, they point out the many questions that remain unanswered about MRSA in long-term care facilities.

As an infectious diseases consultant, hospital epidemiologist, and infection control consultant to two nursing homes, I have had considerable experience with MRSA. My experience parallels, for the most part, that described by Kauffman and associates. However, I would like to emphasize the point made by these investigators about variations in findings depending on the population studied. Kauffman et al appropriately point out that their findings in a veterans' hospital-based nursing home population may not be applicable to patients in a private nursing home. This is an extremely important point for several reasons. First, the population in most nursing homes is predominantly female (mentioned by Dr. Kauffman) unlike the pre-

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