



**James R. Miller, MD, FCAP**  
**Salem Township Hospital**  
**Salem, Illinois**

### **Pathologist Builds Business Case—Progressive Hospital Board Embraces New Technology**

As a pathologist and medical director for Salem Township Hospital in Salem, Illinois, James R. Miller, MD, FCAP, recognized the need to embrace new PCR MRSA screening technology in order to have the information immediately available on admission. Today, it's a best practice.

“It helps my hospital be reimbursed for treating patients who already have MRSA upon admittance and prevents losing compensation when infection is diagnosed after admission. The 70-minute preventative screening test is now a best practice. It has **transformed** patient safety and prevented the spread of MRSA infections among my clinical colleagues, our patients, and the public.”

Dr. Miller led a **transformative** initiative as a pathologist. Dr. Miller partnered with his administration to build and present a strong business case for the board of the hospital to embrace the new technology.

“Presenting and winning the business case for our 25-bed rural hospital in Salem, Illinois, to purchase a \$43,000 GeneXpert® machine in 2007 has transformed how we screen for MRSA,” said James R. Miller, MD, FCAP.

The end result is that this pathologist's efforts worked—Dr. Miller helped implement a new process within his rural hospital in Salem, Illinois. Today, all admitting patients are screened for MRSA to protect patients, the public, and his clinical colleagues.

Surprisingly, 17-22 % of patients admitted to the hospital have screened positive for MRSA upon admittance. Dr. Miller's preventative screening actions ensure that his

hospital is reimbursed for treatment, since MRSA was not contracted while the patient was hospitalized the hospital but was present in the patient before admittance.

This screening protects not only the public but also his clinical colleagues from further spread of MRSA.