

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Microbiological specimens**

Blood cultures will be carried out following the protocol of each center and will be processed by the microbiology laboratories of the participating hospitals. MRSA isolation of the first episode of bacteraemia will be stored and all consecutive isolates in successive blood cultures performed, if they were positive. All isolates must be properly maintained (frozen at -20 ° C) until the time of delivery to the coordinating center Microbiology. Microbiology laboratories only will deliver frozen strain (no blood samples). The strain will be identified by a code that only the IP and other study researchers will be able to connect with the patient and their medical history.