982 records identified through database searching

981 records after duplicates removed and screened for possible inclusion

747 excluded after screening of abstract and title (inclusion criteria not met)

234 full-text articles assessed for eligibility

218 excluded
- 99 had missing data
- 90 were studies of general screening for infection or treatment
- 15 were case reports
- 14 were decolonization protocols

16 studies assessing the duration of MRSA colonization included in quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis)

**Figure 1.** Study selection process (MRSA)