Real-time genetics could squash “superbug” outbreaks

Genetic sequences of drug-resistant bacteria have helped scientists better understand how these dastardly infections evolve—and elude treatment. But these superbugs are still claiming lives of many who acquire them in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes. And recent outbreaks of these hard-to-treat infections can spread easily in healthcare settings.

Researchers might soon be able to track outbreaks in real time, thanks to advances in sequencing technology. So say Mark Walker and Scott Beaston, both of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences and Australian Infectious Disease Research Center at the University of Queensland in Australia, in an essay published online November 29 in *Science*. “Genomic sequencing can provide information that gives facilities a head start in implementing preventive measures,” they wrote.

View the original article here: Real-Time Genetics Could Squash “Superbug” Outbreaks before They Spread