

## Who can I speak to if I have further questions?

Please speak to any of the ward staff or medical staff who are caring for you. If they are unable to answer your questions or if you require further information, the Infection Control nurse can offer you additional advice, between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

To speak to an Infection Control nurse at Heartlands and Solihull hospitals telephone 0121 424 1137.

To speak to an Infection Control nurse at Good Hope telephone 0121 424 9430

The Infection Prevention and Control Team take a lead in reducing infections in the Trust and there are initiatives in place to decrease the risk of infection.

Designed and written by:

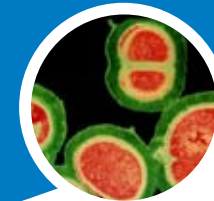
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Patient Information

# MRSA

Information for  
Patients and Relatives



# MRSA

## What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a common germ found on the skin and in the nose of about 1 in 3 of the general population. People are generally unaware that they are carrying it, as they have no symptoms, occasionally it can cause infections.

MRSA (Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus) is a particular strain of Staphylococcus aureus which is resistant to some antibiotics; therefore any infections might be harder to treat

## Why have I been Screened for MRSA?

Healthy people can be 'colonized' with MRSA (i.e. causing them no harm) in their nose or on their skin, however if the MRSA gets transferred into a wound, drip or drain then the individual may get an infection that requires antibiotic treatment.

This Trust has a policy of screening all admissions for MRSA. Screening will help us identify those patients who are colonized and enable us to treat them quickly. This can help reduce the risk of becoming infected and risk of spread to other patients.

## What will happen if I am Positive?

If you are in hospital and MRSA is detected, you may be moved to a side room depending on the site of the MRSA and type of ward.

You will be given an antiseptic body wash and a nasal cream along with information on how they should be applied. Sometimes if an infection is present, it may be necessary to give oral or intravenous antibiotics.

## How will MRSA affect me?

Most people carry MRSA without experiencing any symptoms. If you develop an infection your doctor will prescribe an appropriate antibiotic.

## Can I have Visitors?

Your relatives can visit but they need to be informed of good hand washing after visiting with you. They will be asked to wear an apron and should refrain from sitting on the bed.

If anyone in your family has a long-standing health problem, they should discuss this with one of the nursing / medical staff before they visit.

## Can my Laundry be taken home to wash?

A separate information sheet is available regarding the laundering of your clothing, please ask a member of staff. There are no specific instructions; clothing should be washed as normal at the highest temperature that the fabric will allow and then tumbled dried / ironed as normal.

## What will happen when am I ready to leave Hospital?

Having MRSA does not necessarily mean you will need to stay in hospital longer, if you have an infection you will need to remain until the medical staff feel you are ready for discharge.

You will need to finish the course of treatment when you are discharged home and will be informed if you need to be re-screened.

General cleanliness and hand hygiene is paramount when at home.

If you get admitted into hospital again, you will need to inform the staff you have had MRSA before, so the correct precautions can be taken for you and to prevent the spread to vulnerable patients in the hospital setting.