

Infection Prevention and Control

MRSA Screening



Information Leaflet

What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a type of bacterium (germ) that commonly lives on healthy skin. About one third of healthy people carry it quite harmlessly, usually on moist surfaces, such as the nostrils, armpits and groin. Meticillin resistant types of *staphylococcus aureus* do not respond to some antibiotics which can sometimes make MRSA infections hard to treat.

What is MRSA screening?

It is estimated that around 7% of patients admitted to hospital have MRSA in the nose or on the skin.

MRSA screening involves testing patients so that those carrying MRSA can be identified.

MRSA is more likely to cause an infection in people who are unwell, which is why it is important to identify MRSA carriers in a hospital before it can cause symptoms or spread to other patients.

How is an MRSA screen taken?

A member of staff collects a sample by taking a swab moistened in saline from inside the nose.

The sample is then sent to the laboratory.

What happens if MRSA is found?

If MRSA is found an antiseptic ointment for the nose and an antiseptic lotion to wash skin and hair with is needed.

Patients with MRSA may be cared for separately from other patients.

Should you have any further questions or require further advice please speak to your doctor, nurse or Infection Prevention staff.

Infection Prevention Team 01535 294848

Write any questions/queries below

The Public Health England website and will give further guidance and information: <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection/infectious-diseases>

If you require this leaflet in other languages or formats please telephone the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on: 01535 294019 for advice.

Please raise any issue you may have about your care and treatment with a member of staff. Raising your concerns will not adversely affect the care you will receive.

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