

If you have MRSA it is unlikely that you will be prevented from having treatment and tests, such as X-rays, operations and physiotherapy. However cancellation may occasionally be necessary to reduce any risks to your health.

Going home with MRSA

If you are otherwise well enough, your going home date will not be delayed even if you are still carrying MRSA on your body. MRSA is not a danger to healthy family, friends or the general public, so there are no special precautions. Hand washing and keeping your house clean in the usual way is all that you need. Wash your clothes and bed linen at normal temperatures and iron them.

Coming back to hospital

If you come back into hospital, it is important to tell the nurses and doctors that you have had MRSA. We may then isolate you and screen you for MRSA (by taking swabs to check if it is still present).

The MRSA Policy

The Infection Control Team monitor MRSA closely and carefully giving advice to staff on how to prevent its spread. It's very important that we

do everything we can to stop MRSA spreading, which might mean that patients have to move beds several times or be cared for in a mixed sex bay. This might be the case even if you do not have MRSA yourself. Patients are tested for MRSA when they come from another hospital or nursing home and when they are admitted to high risk areas, such as intensive care and some surgical wards.

Further Information

If you would like more information, please ask the Nursing or Medical staff.

You may also speak to a member of the Infection Control Team.

Please ask a member of the ward staff to contact them on your behalf.



St George's Healthcare NHS Trust
St George's Hospital
Blackshaw Road
London
SW17 0QT
Tel: 020 8672 1255
Website: www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

MRSA

Infection Control



This information is for patients, relatives and carers. It explains what MRSA is, how it affects us, how it spreads and what we can do to stop it spreading.

Who has bacteria?

It is normal for healthy people to have bacteria (germs) on their skin. One of the most common types of bacteria is Staphylococcus aureus. One in three people have this bacteria in their noses, without it causing any harm.

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus. This means that Methicillin (an antibiotic) does not work on this type of bacteria. Therefore infections with MRSA can be harder to treat with antibiotics. However, the majority of patients who develop a MRSA infection are successfully treated with antibiotics.

Most people with MRSA carry it without any harm to themselves or their family. However it can sometimes cause serious infections, especially if it gets into a wound. This is why we try to stop MRSA spreading around the hospital.

How does MRSA Spread?

Hospitals should be clean, but there is very little evidence that a dirty environment causes the spread of MRSA.

MRSA is mainly spread on our hands, when we touch other people or things but equipment and clothing can help to spread it too. It can also travel through the air if people have MRSA in their sputum (phlegm) or on skin scales (dry skin). Feel free to ask staff if they have cleaned their hands.

Where did I get MRSA?

You may have caught MRSA before you came into hospital or during your hospital stay. Approximately one third of our patients found to have MRSA, acquired the bacteria before admission either in the community or while in another hospital or nursing home.

MRSA does not put you at risk if you are a healthy person, pregnant woman or child, providing you follow basic rules of hygiene and always wash your hands

Visitors in Hospital

All visitors should clean their hands with alcohol gel every time they enter and leave the ward. This should be the case whether the person you are visiting has MRSA or not. If your friend or relative has MRSA, you do not need to put on gloves and an apron unless you are visiting another patient afterwards; hand-hygiene is all that is needed. Never touch a wound or device such as a drip or catheter.

How do we look after patients with MRSA in hospital?

If you have MRSA the nurses will care for you using additional precautions, such as gloves and aprons. You may also be isolated, which means looking after you in a side room or separate bay. To do this, it might be necessary to move you to another ward.

We might give you a special cream, powder and washes to get rid of the bacteria if appropriate. We might also give you antibiotics if you have an infection as a result of having MRSA. We will need to keep doing tests to find out if you still have MRSA. We do this by taking swabs from different sites on your body.