



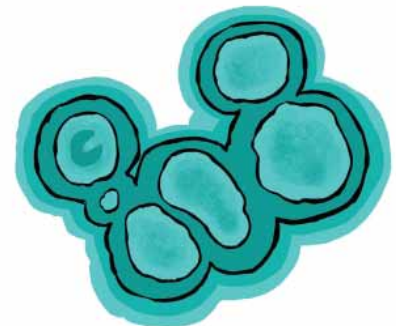
About MRSA

Information for people going into hospital

Easy read

This is an Easy read version of a leaflet called **MRSA Screening – A positive result**

This leaflet is for people who need to go into hospital for an operation or other treatment who are carrying the MRSA germ.



You may like to have someone to support you when you look at this leaflet.

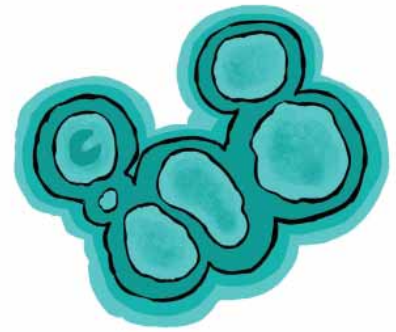


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What is MRSA?

MRSA is short for **Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus**.



MRSA is a type of germ that **cannot** be killed by an antibiotic called **meticillin**. (Antibiotics are drugs for treating some types of germs.)

But doctors can treat MRSA with other sorts of antibiotics.



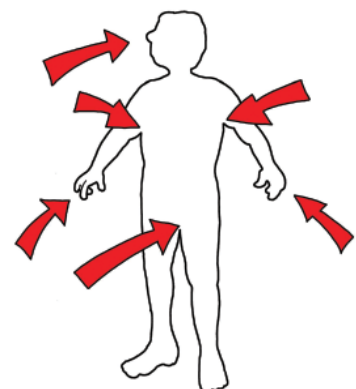
Carrying MRSA

Do not worry if you have been told that you are carrying MRSA.

Carrying MRSA does **not** mean that you are ill.



Lots of people carry MRSA on their skin or in their nose.



And you are not a risk to:

- other healthy people



- older people



- pregnant women



- children or babies.



The MRSA germs will **not** usually cause you any problems.



Going into hospital

It may be a problem if you carry MRSA and you need to go into hospital.



The MRSA germ can be a problem if it gets inside your body. This could be through a sore, or a wound from an operation, or a hole for a medical tube.



Before you go into hospital, you may have some tests called screening. If you are carrying MRSA, you may not be able go into hospital straight away.



You may need treatment to get rid of as much of the MRSA as possible before you go into hospital.

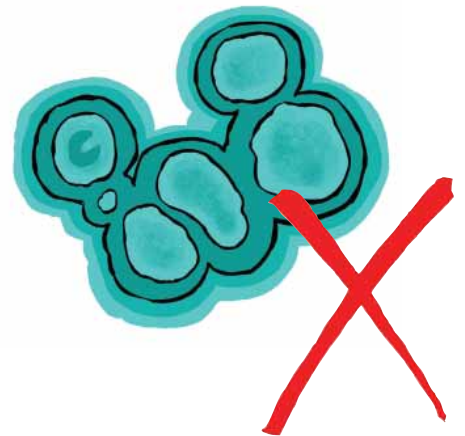


Your doctor or the hospital will explain the treatment to you and how to get the treatment.



The treatment will mean that you are less likely to:

- get ill from MRSA yourself
- give MRSA to other patients.



What is an MRSA infection?

If MRSA gets into your body through a break in your skin you may get ill.

This is called an MRSA infection.



An MRSA infection may just cause redness or a bit of swelling round a wound.



But it might cause more serious chest or blood infections.



If you have an MRSA infection, doctors will use antibiotics which are not **meticillin** to treat you.



Getting rid of MRSA

You may need to get rid of MRSA from your skin before you go into hospital.



Your doctor or nurse will talk to you about what you need to do.



This usually means:

- washing your body with a special body wash
- using a special hair wash, and



- using a special cream in your nose.



You may also need to:

- change your clothes every day



- change your bed sheets and pillowcases every day.



You will usually need to do these things for 5 days or until you have your operation or treatment in hospital.



You do **not** usually need to be in hospital while you are getting rid of MRSA from your skin.



And you will **not** usually need to be checked for MRSA again before you go into hospital.



But if your operation is urgent and you need to go into hospital quickly, you may need to have treatment for MRSA in the hospital. This might be in a side room in the hospital.



If you have had MRSA before you may need special antibiotics.

Your doctors will decide what sort of antibiotics you need.



Side effects

Side effects are things that may happen to you because of a treatment you are having.

There are **not** usually many side effects from MRSA treatment. But you might have some small side effects like a rash.



If you get a rash or are worried about any other problems, you should stop the treatment and talk to your doctor.



Can I have visitors in hospital?

Yes, you can have visitors.



You are not a risk to visitors, including pregnant women and children.



But visitors should always wash their hands and use the special alcohol hand rubs when they visit **anyone** in hospital. Visitors should always do this when they go into or leave any room or area in the hospital.



You should always check the rules about visitors with your hospital nurse.



What happens when I leave hospital?

Once you leave the hospital, you can carry on as normal.



The hospital will tell your GP that you have been treated for MRSA.



Your GP will talk to you about any extra treatment or tests you may need to make sure the MRSA has completely gone.



How to find out more

**If you are worried about MRSA,
you can talk to:**

- your local NHS clinic nurse
- your practice nurse, or
- your GP.



You can also find out more about
MRSA at **www.nhs.uk**



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www.dh.gov.uk/publications