

Preventing the spread of MRSA

We have been working hard for a number of years to reduce the spread of MRSA.

We have low numbers of children with MRSA and when each case is checked, in most cases, the children have developed MRSA before they have even come into hospital.

Every child who we find is carrying MRSA has an alert added to his or her patient record to inform all professionals whom are providing care/treatment to your child. This allows us to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread.

We strongly encourage hand washing before and after patient contact, there is alcohol hand gel provided (alternative to soap and water) at the entrances to each ward and also outside your bedspace/cubicle, but we do encourage hand washing when in the cubicle.

We encourage you to ask any member of staff who visits your child whether they have washed/alcohol rubbed their hands.

Finally, we always aim for high levels of cleanliness in wards and general areas but we need your help too.

There are posters in every ward about how you can help keep the hospital clean. If you have any specific questions regarding your child please ask to speak to your doctor.

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
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Marshalls Cross Road,
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**Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

MRSA

Patient information leaflet

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتيسيق يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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What is MRSA? Is it serious?

MRSA is short for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium (bug or germ) that about 30 per cent of us carry on our skin or in our nose without knowing about it.

This is called 'colonisation'. Most types (strains) of Staphylococcus aureus do not cause any problems and if they do, are easily treated using standard antibiotic medicines.

However, there are some types of Staphylococcus aureus that cannot be treated with standard antibiotic medicines. This is because the bacterium has 'got used to' the standard medicines and changed itself so that the medicines do not work as well any more. This is called 'resistance'. There are other types of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotic medicines, but MRSA is the most well known type.

How serious is MRSA?

MRSA is not a stronger or more infectious type of bacteria than others.

It is only different because the standard antibiotic medicines do not work against it. This means that non-standard antibiotic medicines are needed to treat the infection.

How does someone become a carrier of MRSA?

MRSA is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. If someone who is a carrier of MRSA touches the skin of a person who is not a carrier, this can transfer the bacteria from one to the other. In a lot of cases, when we test someone for MRSA we find that they are already a carrier with the germ. If your child has been in hospital or has had antibiotics recently, he/she is more likely to become a carrier with MRSA than other children.

How does someone get infected with MRSA?

MRSA does not cause any problems when a person is well, but it can cause problems when someone has had an operation or any other treatment that breaks the skin. This allows the MRSA germs to get inside the body, where they could cause an infection or problems with wound healing. There is no way of telling whether someone has MRSA just by looking.

The most reliable way of diagnosing MRSA is to take a swab (like a cotton bud) of the inside of their nose or their skin. The swab is sent to the hospital laboratory to see whether the MRSA germ grows or not. If the swab comes back positive for MRSA the laboratory staff then use this sample of the MRSA to work out which medicines can treat it. The results of these tests are usually available within 3-5 days of the swab being taken.

What happens if my child has MRSA?

If your child is awaiting a swab results or has a positive test for MRSA, he/she will be nursed in a separate room (cubicle) with a closing door if possible.

If there are no cubicles available, your child will share a room (4 bedded area) with other children with MRSA.

Our domestic staff will clean the room thoroughly on a regular basis while your child is staying with us, and also after you have gone home.

If your child is a carrier of MRSA, he/she will not usually need treatment. However, we will assess each child individually and discuss any plans for treatment with you, your doctors and the infection control team.

If your child needs treatment, it might just be with an antiseptic shampoo or body wash if only your child's skin is colonised. If your child has MRSA elsewhere, there is treatment options, for example if it comes back positive from a nasal swab we can offer a nasal treatment which is an ointment.

He/she may need antibiotics given directly into a vein via a cannula. This is known as an Intravenous Infusion (IV) MRSA can be treated with at least one type of antibiotics at the present time, although this might change in the future.