

If, after reading this leaflet you have any further questions, please contact your doctor or discharge ward on:

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600



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MRSA (Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
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While you were in hospital you were told that you have **MRSA (Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)**.

This information booklet may help you to understand what this means and answer some of your questions.

What is MRSA?

MRSA is a germ that may be carried quite harmlessly by many people in their nose, throat or on their skin without causing any infection.

However, it is carried more easily where people have skin that is broken, have sores or skin problems.

Why is it important?

MRSA is a germ that is resistant to many of the common antibiotics we normally use to treat infections.

Therefore it may be more difficult to treat if it does cause an infection, however there is effective treatment.

**If you are MRSA positive and need to attend,
or are admitted to a hospital,
please bring this leaflet with you.**

Do I need to tell anyone about the MRSA?

When you come back to the clinic or if you are admitted to this, or any other hospital, we ask that you inform the hospital staff.

This is in case we need to take swabs from your nose, etc., and to remind staff to be extra careful about washing their hands in case they spread the germ to other patients.

Where can I get further information?

While you are in the ward always ask your Named Nurse or Ward Sister.

If you would like more information, please ask to speak to one of the Infection Prevention Nurse Specialists.

They can be contacted on: 0151 430 1384/2452

How does MRSA spread?

MRSA can spread easily from one person to another (staff or patients), on hands or other articles.

Very careful hand-washing by staff, patients and visitors is important and helps to stop the germ spreading

How can you tell who has MRSA?

Patients with MRSA do not look or feel different from other patients.

The germ can only be identified in the hospital laboratory on swabs taken from your wounds, nose, throat etc.

How can you get rid of MRSA?

The doctor may prescribe a special antiseptic solution to use as a shower gel or liquid soap when washing.

You may also be given a cream to put up your nose.

If you have an infection caused by the germ, you may also have antibiotics prescribed.

If you are carrying the germ and it is not causing infection you may not need any treatment.

Why do I have to stay in a single room?

This is to help stop the germ being passed to other patients who may be poorly or have little resistance to infection.

What about my visitors?

You can have visitors as usual.

- They may sometimes be asked to wear a plastic apron when to visit you, if they are assisting in your physical care or visiting other patients.
- Heavy coats etc. should be left outside the room.
- They should wash their hands before they leave your room so that they do not spread the germs around.
- Your visitors will not be ill even if they do pick up the germ, as long as they are healthy.

If you have any doubts, please discuss this with the nursing staff.

Will this prevent me from leaving hospital?

No. You will be discharged as usual even if you have the germ, unless it is causing an infection.

Will I need treatment at home?

- Only if you have not finished your treatment, or if you have an infection.
- Your GP or District Nurse will be able to treat you if necessary.
- The ward nurse will tell them about the problem when you are discharged.

When you are at home, there will be no need for your family or friends to wear plastic aprons as they have done while you were on the ward.

However, everyone should **still wash their hands regularly**, and before they leave your home.

Will MRSA harm my family or friends?

Not if they are healthy.

Ask the ward nurse or your GP if you are not sure.

However, if someone who lives in the same house as you is a hospital worker they may take the germ back to the hospital patients.

So please tell the nurse in charge of the ward before you go home who will then inform the Infection Prevention Team to see if this person needs to take precautions.

The MRSA is not harmful to pregnant women or children.