

MRSA Advice

For patients in community hospitals



Introduction

This information leaflet is about MRSA in community hospitals and how it may affect the care you receive when you are an in-patient. This should be read in conjunction with the general advice sheet for MRSA.

Will I need treatment?

You may be treated with either or both of the following during your stay:

- Antiseptic liquid soap (hair and body)
- An antibiotic nasal cream.

Will I be treated differently?

Healthcare staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons when carrying out aspects of your care. In some circumstances you may be moved into a single room if one is available.

Will I have swabs or specimens taken?

Routine taking of swabs or specimens is not indicated. If there is a clinical reason, for example a wound that has a heavy discharge, a cough that produces sputum, or a skin condition, which creates large shedding of the skin.

Will my therapy change?

It is important that patients who are going to therapy departments (for example physiotherapy and occupational therapy) are appropriately clothed and do not have the following; a wound that has a heavy discharge, a cough that produces sputum, or a skin condition which creates large shedding of the skin. Any potential changes in your care will be discussed with you.

Can I have visitors?

MRSA does not harm healthy people. This includes pregnant women, children and babies. MRSA can affect people who have certain long-term health problems. Please ask the nursing staff first if someone who has a long-term health problem wants to visit you. Ask the visitors to wash their hands and use the alcohol gel provided before and after visiting you.

Can I go to the hospital shop and canteen?

MRSA is not a risk to healthy people. It is important that patients going to the hospital shop or canteen are appropriately clothed. If you have a wound that has a heavy discharge, a cough that produces sputum or a skin condition, which creates large shedding of the skin, then you must not visit the hospital shop or canteen.

Can my visitors take my washing home?

Washing should be taken home in a plastic bag. Clothing and linen can be washed in the usual way. It can be washed in the washing machine with other laundry at the hottest temperature the fabric will allow.

Will having MRSA delay my discharge?

Usually there will be no delay in discharge. It should not stop you going home or in to a care home. Some specialised hospital units may want you to be transferred into a single room and this may cause a slight delay.

Who needs to know I have MRSA?

Only those staff directly involved in your care need to know that you have MRSA.

What if I have any more questions?

Ask the person who has given you this leaflet. If he or she is unable to answer your question please contact a nurse from the Leicestershire County and Rutland Infection Prevention and Control Team:

Tammy Bale Tel: 07796 610507

Deborah Moussous Tel: 07768 177516

Amanda Howell Tel: 07825 845578



Everyone can play a part in reducing the spread of infections