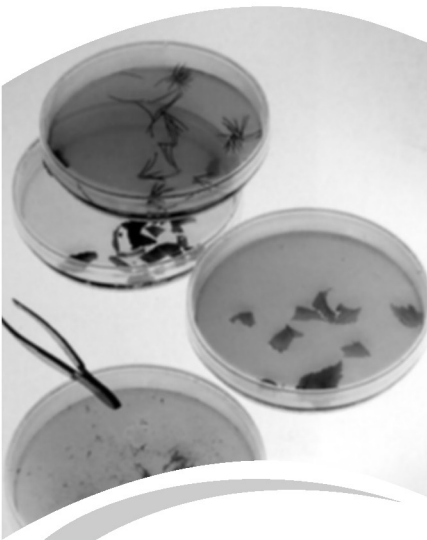


MRSA

Information for patients and visitors



MRSA

(Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

What are MRSA?

MRSA are types of Staphylococcus aureus which are not destroyed by most antibiotics.

Staphylococcus aureus are germs (bacteria) that normally live in the noses of almost half the population and also in skin folds of the armpit, groin etc, where they usually do no harm. Occasionally however, they cause infections, generally of the skin – for example, wound infections or boils. Urinary tract infections may occur, or more rarely, deep infections – for example, abscesses or infections of bone or blood.

Where have MRSA come from?

Some Staphylococcus aureus may have gradually become resistant because of the heavy use of antibiotics over the past 30 years, resulting in resistant strains surviving.

Do MRSA matter?

MRSA can be carried in the nose or on the skin without causing any harm but they can cause the same type of infections as any other Staphylococcus aureus and these can be difficult to treat.

How are MRSA spread?

Spread of MRSA may occur as a result of person to person contact or by environmental contamination.

How can the spread of MRSA be controlled?

- The most effective way to reduce spread is by good hand washing. Good domestic hygiene is also important.
- Other hygiene measures are routinely practised in hospitals. For example, patients with, or suspected of having MRSA, may be nursed in a single room.
- Antiseptic skin cleansers and a special ointment applied to the nose can be successful in removing MRSA from the body.

Further information

Do patients with MRSA need to be in hospital?

There is no need for a person with MRSA to be admitted to, or kept in hospital, unless there is a clinical reason for doing so.

Are others at risk?

Healthy people are not at risk of infection by visiting someone with MRSA. Family members at home, including babies and pregnant women are not at risk.

If you require further advice contact the nurse in charge of your care, infection control nurse, or your own doctor.

**Infection Control
Contact Numbers**

Hairmyres Hospital

Telephone 01355 584641/47

Monklands Hospital

Telephone 01236 712240

Wishaw General Hospital

Telephone 01698 366408

Primary Care Team:

Cleland Hospital

Telephone 01698 863269

Health Protection Team

Lanarkshire NHS Board

Telephone 01698 206336

Pub. date: December 2010

Review date: December 2012

Issue No: 02

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PIL.MRSALT.1622.L