

Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

MRSA is a type of bacteria that's resistant to a number of widely used antibiotics. This means MRSA infections can be more difficult to treat than other bacterial infections. People can either be colonised or infected with MRSA.

COLONISATION

MRSA can be found living on the skin and causes no harm. (Colonisation)
It is found by the screening process from taking swabs from the nose, axilla or groin..
If the swab results are positive then suppression therapy may be needed.
The person does not need to be isolated.

INFECTION

MRSA can get into the body via breaks in the skin or through indwelling devices. This can cause infection at the site it enters the body eg wound infection, via urinary catheter or, in the blood - MRSA bacteraemia.
Each of these infections need to be treated with appropriate antibiotics.
The person may need to be isolated in their room until treatment has completed.
Speak to the Infection Control Team for advice **01744 457 314**

Transmission of MRSA –

MRSA bacteria are usually spread through skin-to-skin contact with someone who has an MRSA infection or has the bacteria living on their skin.
The bacteria can also spread through contact with towels, sheets, clothes, dressings or other objects that have been used by a person infected or colonised with MRSA.
MRSA can survive for long periods on objects or surfaces, such as door handles, sinks, floors and cleaning equipment.

Infection Control Precautions





MRSA Suppression Therapy

Single
Point
Lesson 2

Nasal ointment



Bactroban nasal ointment contains 2% Mupirocin and needs to be applied 3 times daily to the inside of each nostril for 5 days. Once prescribed appropriately follow guidance below -

- Wash hands thoroughly
- Apply Bactroban nasal ointment to cotton wool bud
- Insert cotton wool bud gently to both nasal nares
- Dispose of cotton wool bud appropriately and wash your hands



Skin suppression (5 day course) once daily Hibiscrub or Oilatum plus (if poor skin condition)
Apply as per instructions below

Rescreening

Rescreen on advice of Infection Control Team only

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Body & hair	Body	Body & hair	Body	Body & hair

Follow all instructions as set out below

1. Wet skin thoroughly	2. Apply antiseptic solution directly onto skin (like shower gel)	3. Pay particular attention to armpits, groins and waist. Leave on the skin for 3 minutes	4. Rinse thoroughly	5. Dry skin thoroughly Change bed sheets daily
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Wound Management

- Review dressing - involve Tissue Viability Nurse.
- Wounds need to be covered with a silver dressing.