

If you require further information please contact your GP,
your local Community Infection and Prevention Control
or local UK Health Security Agency Team



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**Preventing Healthcare
Associated Infection**

MRSA positive screening result

Community Infection Prevention and Control
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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**Information leaflet for service users
in the community**

MRSA has been found on the screening swabs taken when you were admitted to hospital

This leaflet explains what this means to you.

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Staphylococcus aureus* is a germ that up to 30% of the population carry on their skin or in their nose at any time without being aware of it. MRSA is *Staphylococcus aureus* which has become resistant to the more commonly used antibiotics. It is important to remember that MRSA is not usually a health concern for those people who are fit and well.

MRSA can live harmlessly on your skin, in your nose or in long-standing wounds such as leg ulcers. You may carry MRSA in this way for long periods without any ill effects. This is called colonisation.

If MRSA gets into a wound it may sometimes cause an infection which is more difficult to treat than other infections because of its resistance to some antibiotics. Reducing the number of MRSA bacteria on the skin reduces the chances of an MRSA infection if you have a surgical wound, chronic wound, e.g. leg ulcer or an invasive device such as urinary catheters.

What happens now?

Suppression treatment will be offered to you. The aim of this treatment is to reduce the numbers of MRSA bacteria you have to a harmless level.

Suppression treatment may be offered to patients in the following groups to reduce the possibility of developing an MRSA infection:

- People who are admitted to mental health units following a surgical procedure
- People transferred from an acute hospital to a mental health unit
- People who are intravenous drug users
- People who self-harm but discharged to nursing/residential homes, elderly mental health inpatient units or community hospitals

What is suppression treatment?

This is a five day treatment of an antibacterial washing lotion or foam for the skin and ointment or cream to be applied to the inside of the nose. We would recommend that this treatment is commenced as soon as you are able to do so.

Do members of my family need to be screened?

There is no need for members of your family to be screened for MRSA.

It is important to remember that MRSA holds no problems for most people, especially those who are fit and well. The reason that you are being offered treatment is to protect you from the risk of developing an MRSA infection.