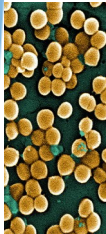


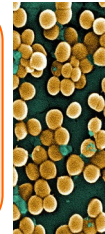
MRSA (Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)



What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus (*S. aureus*) lives harmlessly on the skin and in the nose and throat of about 1/3 of people.

MRSA is a variety of *S. aureus* which is resistant to some of the commonly used antibiotics such as flucloxacillin.



How is MRSA spread?

MRSA can be spread from person-to-person by direct skin contact.

It can be present in the environment in dust if cleaning is inadequate and spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment.

Healthcare workers hands that have not been thoroughly washed can pass MRSA to another person.

MRSA infection

MRSA can enter the body and cause an infection, such as wound infections, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and **sepsis**.

Signs of infection include fever, redness, pain and increased wound discharge.

Isolation is required when an infection is present.

MRSA colonisation

People can carry MRSA and not become unwell.

The bacteria remains on skin, in the nose or in wounds, where it has established colonisation.

This may be a long-term condition and isolation is not required in a care home.

Suppression treatment

This reduces the number of MRSA bacteria to a less harmful level.

If MRSA is in a wound, then the wound needs to be included in the suppression treatment using suitable prescribed products.

At the end of the treatment, swabs to check for MRSA clearance are not usually required.

Stop the spread of MRSA

Effective hand hygiene is the single most effective action to reduce the spread of MRSA.

Further information can be found at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/mrsa-policy-for-care-home-settings/