

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



## Preventing Healthcare Associated Infection

# MRSA positive screening result

© Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust  
Community Infection Prevention and Control  
[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

Version 4.00  
March 2026

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?**

Staphylococcus aureus known as Staph aureus is a common bacteria (germ) found in the nose and on the skin of many people. This is quite normal and usually does not do any harm.

An infection caused by Staph aureus can be effectively treated with antibiotics.

MRSA (meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) is a type of *Staph aureus* that has become resistant to some of the commonly used antibiotics. Therefore, if someone has an infection caused by MRSA, there is a limited number of antibiotics, which can be used to treat them.

People can carry MRSA bacteria on their skin, in their nose or in wounds, without it causing an infection (this is known as colonisation).

People who are colonised with MRSA do not require antibiotic treatment.

Reducing the number of MRSA bacteria on the skin reduces the chances of developing an MRSA infection.

### **Do members of my family need to be screened?**

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

## **What happens now?**

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

- Service users with acute wounds (including surgical incisions) or chronic wounds
- Service users with indwelling devices, e.g. PEG tubes, indwelling urinary catheter
- Service users who are likely to attend/be readmitted frequently to an acute hospital for planned care, e.g. haemodialysis, chemotherapy

### **What is suppression treatment?**

This is a five day treatment of an antimicrobial wash lotion or foam for the skin and hair 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.

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.