



A lifetime of specialist care

Royal Brompton & Harefield 
NHS Foundation Trust

Information about MRSA





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This leaflet gives you information about MRSA, including how to stop MRSA spreading. The leaflet does not replace personal advice from a healthcare professional. If you have any questions, please ask a nurse on your ward or in the outpatient area.

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for meticillin resistant staphylococcus aureus. Meticillin is an antibiotic. Staphylococcus aureus is a common type of germ (bacteria) that lives on the skin and in the nose of many people. MRSA is a germ that is resistant to some antibiotics.

Usually MRSA does not cause any harm but, occasionally it can cause an infection. Infections caused by MRSA can be difficult to treat because there are only a few antibiotics that can kill the bacteria.

MRSA is more likely to cause an infection if you are feeling ill, are injured or have had surgery, and it gets into a wound or the bloodstream.

MRSA care at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

We have an excellent record for preventing MRSA at our hospitals. The number of people developing MRSA at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals is consistently low.

Please help us continue to stop MRSA spreading by following the information in this leaflet.

MRSA and resistance to antibiotics

Doctors prescribe antibiotics to treat patients with infections. The antibiotics kill the bacteria that cause the infection. However, if a patient does not finish the prescribed antibiotic, not all the bacteria are killed. The bacteria that have not been killed can develop a resistance to the antibiotic, so the antibiotic no longer works.

How MRSA spreads

MRSA can spread if:

- you are in close contact with people with MRSA
- you are in contact with contaminated equipment or clothing that has been used by someone with MRSA
- equipment that is contaminated with MRSA is not cleaned properly
- particles of skin from people with MRSA have spread into the hospital environment, and the hospital is not cleaned properly.

Stopping MRSA from spreading

Patients, visitors and staff can all help stop MRSA spreading.

It's important to wash your hands regularly, especially before meals and after using the toilet or commode. Wash your hands with soap and water, or use the alcohol foam. There is alcohol foam by your bed and around your ward.

If you can't find the alcohol foam, please ask your nurse.

Ask your visitors to wash their hands or use the alcohol foam before and after they visit.



Ask staff to use the alcohol foam at your bedside before and after caring for you.

Tell your nurse if your bed is not clean. Also tell the nurse looking after you if the toilets, bathroom or any other areas are not clean.

Do not touch your wounds or devices, such as drips or catheters.

Members of the infection prevention and control team work with doctors and nurses on the ward to treat MRSA and stop MRSA spreading in the environment to other patients. Patients with MRSA are usually cared for in a separate room.

Testing for MRSA

We test all patients for MRSA on admission to hospital.

We need to find out if you have MRSA before you have any treatment or tests, including operations, scans, X-rays and physiotherapy.


A nurse will take swabs from your nose, throat, armpit and groin area, either at the pre-admission clinic or when you come into hospital.

Once you are in hospital, we may also take samples from wounds, sputum or urine.

It takes about two days to get the test results. If you have MRSA it will not stop you having treatment and tests. Occasionally, we may postpone your treatment or tests, so we can treat the MRSA first.

Treating MRSA

If you have MRSA in hospital, you will usually be cared for in a side room with extra infection prevention precautions.



If you are found to have MRSA when screened, you may be prescribed some antibacterial body wash and a nasal cream. You may also be prescribed some antibiotics by the doctor.

Going home with MRSA

If you are treated in hospital for MRSA, but are otherwise well enough, you will be able to go home as planned.

Getting your results at home

If you leave hospital before you get your test results, and you do not have MRSA, we will not contact you.

If your test results show you have MRSA, we will send a letter to you and your GP. You do not need to take special safety or hygiene measures. MRSA is not a risk to healthy family, friends or the general public.

Going into hospital if you've had MRSA

If you've had MRSA, and go back in to hospital for other tests and procedures, it is important to tell a doctor or nurse. We may need to see you in a separate area and test for MRSA again.

If you go into another hospital, please tell a nurse or doctor that you've had MRSA. The hospital can contact Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals for more information.

More information

If you have any questions, please ask a nurse or doctor on your ward. You can also ask to talk to a member of the infection prevention and control team, or telephone:

Royal Brompton **0330 12 88121 extension 88455**
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Harefield **0330 12 88121 extension 85571**
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the service you have received in hospital and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

- Royal Brompton Hospital – 020 7349 7715
- Harefield Hospital – 01895 826 572

Alternatively email pals@rbht.nhs.uk. This is a confidential service.

Royal Brompton Hospital
Sydney Street
London
SW3 6NP
Tel: 0330 12 88121

Harefield Hospital
Hill End Road
Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6JH
Tel: 0330 12 88121

Website: www.rbht.nhs.uk

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ترجمة فورية لمضمون هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية، يرجى منك الاتصال بأحد مستخدمينا بجناح المصلحة التي يتم فيها استشفائك. أحد موظفينا سيسعى لترتيب إجراءات الترجمة وإتمامها في الوقت المناسب لك.

Brosurteki bilginin Türkçe tercemesi için tedavi görüyor olduğunuz bölüme bas vurunuz. Bölüm personeli tercemenin gerçekleşmesini en kısa zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

