Calderdale and Huddersfield
NHS Foundation Trust

Infection Prevention and Control Department

What is MSSA / MRSA?
Screening, Treatment and Common Questions Answered

What is Staphylococcus aureus / Meticillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus? (MSSA)

Staphylococcus aureus is a common bacteria which many people carry on parts of their skin or in their noses without any symptoms or infections developing.

What is Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus? (MRSA)

Certain strains of Staphylococcus aureus are resistant to some antibiotics and are referred to as Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

What types of symptoms are caused by MSSA / MRSA?

These bacteria are often present as part of normal skin flora; this is described as being ‘colonised’. Both MSSA and MRSA can cause infections such as boils, abscesses, wound infections and respiratory tract infections.

Swabs for MRSA

If you have an emergency admission to hospital or if you are to have a planned operation, swabs will be taken from your nose, groin and any wounds to check whether you may be colonised with MRSA. If a urinary catheter is present, a urine sample will also be taken.

Swabs for MSSA

Swabs will be taken to test for MSSA if you are to undergo certain operations or procedures such as an AV fistula formation for renal patients. All patients who have a Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) inserted will be screened for both MRSA and MSSA.

MSSA / MRSA positive results from pre-admission swabs

You will be notified of a positive result. Colonisation suppression treatment i.e. a body wash for your skin and a cream for your nose will be prescribed in order to reduce the number of micro-organisms. This consists of a body wash which should be used daily (to be used as a shampoo on Day 1 only) and a nasal cream. Treatment should be administered as prescribed and may be for 5 or 10 days, up to and including the day of your hospital admission. When you are admitted for your operation, you may be nursed in a side-room as this reduces the risk of MRSA being spread to other patients.

MSSA / MRSA positive result from Emergency Admission swabs

Ward staff should inform you if your swab results are positive. For MRSA, a course of treatment, consisting of a body wash for your skin and a cream for your nose will be prescribed.
For MSSA treatment will be prescribed according to the procedure you are to undergo. You may be nursed in a side-room in order to reduce the risk of the bacteria spreading to other patients.

compassionate care

MSSA / MRSA in Hospitals

MSSA and MRSA can cause a problem in hospitals as the development of an infection is more likely in those who are already unwell.

Will it stop me going home?

No: there is no reason why you cannot go home once you are medically fit. Your family / friends should not be at risk but an important hygiene measure is to encourage you and your family / friends to wash your hands regularly and well. You should cover any cuts or lesions with a suitable dressing e.g. plaster. If you are discharged home from hospital before your course of treatment has been completed, you may take the wash for your skin and cream for your nose home with you in order to complete the course.

What happens if I am admitted to the hospital in future?

If you are admitted to any hospital or attend any outpatient appointments, you should inform staff that you have had MSSA or MRSA previously. This will not affect any treatment or investigation that you need. The staff may take some more swabs to check whether MSSA / MRSA is still present. As part of an initiative between your GP and local hospital, a red 'alert card' is now issued to those who have had a positive MRSA result. This card should be presented to any healthcare provider such as Doctor, Dentist or Pharmacist in order to help ensure that the most appropriate antibiotics are prescribed, if required.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Infection Prevention and Control Nurses

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Tel: (01484) 342447

Calderdale Royal Hospital Tel: (01422) 222376

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obrat'te se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym fomacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے میہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"