

If there is anything you do not understand in this leaflet, or you wish to discuss it further, ask the nurse in charge of your care to contact the Infection Control Team.

Infection Control Team contact numbers:

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Owner	Infection Control Team
Date of Issue	March 09 (Draft)
Review Date	March 10
Version	1
Approved By	Infection Control Team

**Infection Control Team**

**Screening for Methicillin  
Resistant Staphylococcus  
Aureus (MRSA)**

**Information for Patients and  
Relatives**

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Infection can occur at any time, but you may be particularly vulnerable to infection if you are coming into hospital for an operation or procedure.

Most people have germs on their skin which are quite harmless. Some people carry the germ MRSA. We can remain healthy as long as our skin and immune systems are intact.

However when patients have operations/procedures, germs can enter wounds, sites of catheters, drips and drains. This may create a potential risk of developing an infection.

Before your operation/procedure we will swab your nose. This will show us if you are carrying MRSA.

#### What is involved?

Swabs will be taken from your nose and any wounds you already have. If the swabs show that MRSA is present, you will be contacted by a nurse from the hospital, who will be able to answer your questions. She will arrange a course of treatment for you

which can be collected from the hospital, or will advise on alternative collection points if this is not possible. The results from the swabs should be available within three days.

#### Will my operation/procedure be cancelled if my swabs are positive?

Not usually. Having a positive result should not prevent you having surgery/procedure.

#### Can I refuse to have swabs taken?

Yes. But it must be stressed that swabbing is an important part of your pre admission care, and if you have MRSA it is necessary that we start treatment before your operation/procedure takes place.

#### What will happen to the results?

All swab results are filed in your medical notes for current and future reference.

**Thank you for your cooperation**