

York Teaching Hospital **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

**Methicillin Resistant  
Staphylococcus Aureus  
(MRSA)**

Information for Patient Contacts



**Infection Prevention Team  
The York Hospital  
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York  
YO31 8HE**

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It is important to remember that MRSA is not a problem for those of us who are fit and well. It can however be a risk to those patients who are very sick and have drips, drains and catheters, as these provide entry points for bugs, including MRSA.

The media have raised the profile of MRSA; however headlines which are aimed at encouraging people to buy newspapers are often alarming and misleading.

MRSA is an antibiotic resistant strain of a common bug called Staphylococcus Aureus. Most people have Staphylococcus Aureus on their skin from time to time and remain healthy. Sometimes it causes infections such as boils.

Some people in hospital are more likely to be ill when affected by Staphylococcus Aureus. MRSA is no more dangerous than other Staphylococcus Aureus, but is harder to treat because it is resistant to common antibiotics and special ones have to be used.



Germs can spread from one patient to another, either by person-to-person by sharing equipment or the environment. Whilst every effort is made to prevent this from happening, spread can still occur (for example from undetected carriers of MRSA), especially in areas where patients are very sick as previously described.

You have been in an area with a patient who has been found to be carrying MRSA and for this reason we need to take swabs from your nose and any place on your body that has an open wound or device attached.

If you are found to be carrying MRSA whilst you are still in hospital, a nurse will explain what treatment is necessary for you to prevent spread and help to protect others.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## **Teaching and Training**

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is involved in the teaching or training of medical staff who may be in attendance at some patient consultations. However, there is an 'opt out' option for any patient who prefers to see a doctor without training medical staff in attendance.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is located in the main entrance of the hospital. They can be contacted on telephone number 01904 726262, answer phone is available out of hours or via email [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk).

## **Trust Core Values**

Meeting the needs of patients and carers is at the centre of everything we do. We hope that you found this leaflet useful and informative.

If you would like to comment on it, please contact Infection Prevention Nurses, Infection Prevention Team, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 725730.







If you require further information  
please contact the Infection  
Prevention Team, on telephone  
number 01904 725860.

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