

INFECTION CONTROL TOP TIPS FOR VISITORS

What you can do as a visitor

If you are visiting a member of the family or a friend in hospital, there are a number of things you can do to help prevent the spread of any infection, including MRSA. Remember, hospitals and health care facilities have many vulnerable patients – your behaviour could affect their outcome.

1 **Do not** visit if you are feeling unwell or have an infection such as flu, or are suffering from a heavy cold or diarrhoea and vomiting. If you are unsure telephone and check with the person in charge before you visit.

2 Strictly adhere to visiting times and to the numbers of visitors allowed.

3 Clean your hands before entering and upon leaving the ward or place of care.

4 **Do not** sit on the bed or use the patients' toilets.

5 Limit the amount of items brought into the hospital that can cause clutter and make cleaning of the ward difficult.

6 Check what kind of gifts or food you are allowed to bring in. Some wards, for example ICU, won't permit flowers and some may prefer you not to bring food.

7 Talk to the nurse / midwife in charge or ask to see the matron/senior nurse/clinical leader if you have concerns about the cleanliness of the environment

8 You may politely challenge any behaviour by staff if you feel it is not safe and ask for an explanation (there may be very good reasons why they are doing what they are doing).

9 **Do not** touch your relative's/friend's wound or any devices such as drips or catheters.

10 If you are worried or unsure about any infection control issues please speak to a member of the ward staff.