

MRSA Screening

This leaflet has been designed to inform you and explain the reasons for screening.



Information for patients and visitors

Why do I have to be screened?

The Department of Health have issued guidance to all acute NHS Trusts advising them of the need to screen patients for MRSA. This includes patients undergoing certain types of treatment or those fulfilling specific criteria such as screening previously known positive patients.

What is MRSA?

MRSA (Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus) is when the bacterium Staphylococcus aureus, which is found on about one third of the population, becomes resistant to an antibiotic called meticillin, reducing the choice of antibiotics available for treatment.

Are there any alternatives?

There are no alternatives to screening and therefore we would advise you to be screened although you do have the right to refuse.

The Department of Health requires screening of patients to effectively identify MRSA carriers and treat them to reduce the risk of transmission.

Are there any risks?

Screening is a painless procedure and there are no apparent risks involved in the screening process.

What does screening mean?

Screening means that swabs will be taken from your nose and any other sites that the Nurse undertaking screening thinks appropriate, usually wound sites, or any sites where the skin is broken.

These swabs will be tested for MRSA. If positive you will be informed of your results by your GP, or team looking after you while you are in hospital.

What do the results mean?

If MRSA is found on your skin the results will help staff decide the safest way to proceed with your treatment. Although the chances of getting an infection are low, treating you will make it even lower.

How long will the results take?

Your results should be available within three days, but if you have any concerns please contact your GP beforehand.

What if the results are positive?

Should your results be positive, your GP or the team looking after you while you are in hospital will prescribe treatment to help to get rid of the MRSA.

What treatment will I be given?

The treatment consists of a daily antibacterial body wash, and the application of an antibacterial nasal cream. This will continue for a period of 5 days.

Who does it affect?

MRSA can be found on the skin where it does not necessarily cause any harm. It is more common in hospitals and care homes where people are having medical procedures and are being cared for.

Reference Section

Department of Health (2014) Screening for MRSA colonisation.



Together 
we care, we respect, we deliver



Information for patients and visitors

Need more information?

We hope to have answered most of your questions but if you would like any further information please speak to the staff who are looking after you.

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:
nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Scartho Road
Grimsby
01472 874111

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
01724 282282

Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
01405 720720
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Date of issue: May, 2015

Review Period: February, 2018

Author: Infection Prevention Control Team
IFP-510 v1.1

© NLGFT 2015



Together 
we care, we respect, we deliver

