

## Where can I get more information about MRSA?



Health Protection Scotland  
[www.hps.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk)



The Health Protection Agency  
[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)



NHS Inform  
[www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)



NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde  
[www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/public-health/infection-prevention-and-control/](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/public-health/infection-prevention-and-control/)

Further advice can be obtained by contacting the local infection control team. Leaflets are available in other languages and in large print version from the following website:



[www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/public-health/infection-prevention-and-control/](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/public-health/infection-prevention-and-control/)

### NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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Management Team:



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Information for Patients  
and Carers about

# MRSA

(Meticillin Resistant  
Staphylococcus aureus)



## What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. It is a type of common bacteria (germs) called Staphylococcus aureus. What makes MRSA different is that it is resistant to some antibiotics but not all. MRSA can live completely harmlessly on the skin and in the nose (colonisation).

## How did I get MRSA?

You may have acquired MRSA before you came into hospital, as it is common in the community. Or you may have acquired it in hospital.

## What happens when I'm in hospital?

- In some cases you will be in a single room.
- Healthcare Workers will wear a disposable plastic apron and gloves when caring for you.
- We may offer you treatment for the MRSA.
- Once your treatment is complete, we may take further screens or swabs.

## Who should I tell?

You should tell your GP and any district or community nurses, or staff that visit you, that you have MRSA. When you go home, the hospital will tell your GP but sometimes this takes several days.

There is no need to tell friends or family, if you don't want to.

## Can MRSA harm my family and friends?

MRSA does not harm healthy people, including pregnant women, children and babies.

MRSA can affect people who have certain long term health problems, e.g. renal failure, diabetes. Please ask your GP, district or community nurse if you have specific MRSA worries about your family and friends.

## Will I need treatment for MRSA when I go home?

If you are colonised with MRSA (have MRSA without any sign of infection), you may need to continue with your treatment when you go home. If, when you go home you are prescribed antibiotics, it is important that you complete the course. You can get further information from the ward staff before you go home.

## What about screening?

When you go home we will not routinely screen you for MRSA unless there is a medical reason to do so, e.g. a wound becomes red. We may take a swab to identify if any infection is present.

## Do I have to take any special precautions when I go home?

- No. Good hand hygiene for all members of the household is the single, most important infection control measure. This prevents the spread of MRSA and lots of different types of infections.
- If you have wounds or dressings, the district or community nurse will wear disposable aprons and gloves. This is because they are often going on to visit other vulnerable patients in the community.
- Wash and launder your clothes at home as normal.
- You can still attend any social event or public place if you feel well enough.

## What will happen if I am admitted to hospital again?

If we admit you again to hospital it is important that you tell staff if you have had MRSA in the past. In some cases we will place you in a single room and screen you again for MRSA.