

## 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 & 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 & Clyde**  
Senior Infection Control Management Team:



0141 211 2526

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Some facts 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).

Resistant bacteria are called **Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus** or, MRSA.

## What is the difference between colonisation and infection?

Colonisation occurs when MRSA is present on or in the body without causing illness.

Infection occurs when MRSA causes illness in the person.

## What types of infections does MRSA cause?

MRSA can cause different kinds of illness, including skin infections, bone infections, pneumonia and bloodstream infections.

## Who gets MRSA?

MRSA infection can develop in hospital patients who are elderly or very sick, who have an open wound or a tube going into their body. Any infections acquired in hospital can be severe. Certain factors can put some patients at higher risk of MRSA including a longer hospital stay, receiving antibiotics or having recent surgery.

## How to control the spread of MRSA in hospital?

Follow any instructions from the healthcare staff:

- Do not share bed linen, pillows or blankets with other patients.
- Do not change any wound dressings unless we tell you to do so.
- If you feel any pain or discomfort or there is redness around any wound or device such as an intravenous drip, ask the nurse to come and inspect it.
- If you have any concerns regarding the cleanliness of the ward, report them to the nursing staff.
- Always wash your hands after visiting the toilet.

## Is there a risk to healthcare staff and patients relatives?

No. MRSA is not a problem for healthy people including children. Although we recommend that babies do not visit patients in hospital. It is ok to have direct contact with your visitors, e.g. holding hands, kissing and hugging.

## How do we treat MRSA?

We can treat infections caused by MRSA with antibiotics. In most cases where MRSA is simply living on the skin or in the nose and not causing infection, you do not need antibiotics.

## I am coming into hospital and I am scared of getting MRSA.

- We assess all patients admitted to hospital for MRSA.
- There is a small risk of acquiring an infection after any operation or invasive procedure, but infection, even with MRSA, is treatable.
- During your stay Healthcare Workers will apply precautions to minimise the risk of infection.