

Patient information

Surgical pre-admission MRSA screening

What is MRSA?

MRSA (Meticillin Resistant *staphylococcus aureus*) is a type of bacteria, which can be found on the skin and in the nose of healthy people causing them no harm whatsoever.

When someone who is carrying MRSA has an operation or invasive procedure there is an increased risk of transferring the bacteria elsewhere in the body and causing an infection which can have serious consequences.

Identifying if you are carrying MRSA and providing treatment to get rid of the bacteria will reduce the risk of this occurring. Therefore a swab will be taken from your nose and groin areas at preadmission clinic.

It is also important to know if someone is carrying MRSA so that in the hospital, steps can be taken to prevent it being spread to other patients.

Patients who have wounds or are recovering from illnesses are more vulnerable to developing an infection.

If your swab result is positive a nurse from the Pre-admission Unit will contact you.

You will be asked to attend the Pre-admission Unit to collect a prescription for treatment to commence prior to your surgery.

What is the treatment for MRSA?

Treatment for MRSA is a 5-day course of anti-septic washes, nasal ointment and dusting powder.

- Patients who are coming into the hospital for a surgical procedure will be required to complete a 5-day course of treatment and attend the Pre-admission Unit for post MRSA screening swabs on days 7, 9 and 11 after the treatment.
- Patients attending the Day Surgery Unit will be required to complete their 5-day course of treatment 5 days prior to their procedure date, day 5 being the last day.
- Patients attending for an orthopaedic procedure at the Day Surgery Unit will be required to complete a 5-day course of treatment and attend the Pre-admission Unit for post MRSA screening swabs on days 7, 9 and 11 after the treatment.

The Pre-admission Unit nurse will advise you when to start the treatment and if you require post MRSA screening swabs

Patients who need to attend the Pre-admission Unit for post MRSA screening swabs will be offered a parking permit from PAU.

There maybe a few patients who on completion of their treatment will need a further course.

Will my operation / procedure be delayed?

The Pre-admission Unit nurse will inform you if your procedure needs to be delayed to allow sufficient time to complete your treatment.

Some patients will be prescribed an antibiotic at the time of the operation to reduce the risk of infection.

Are my family and friends at risk?

No. Healthy people are not at risk from MRSA. We do however encourage that all visitors wash their hands both before and after visiting.

When do I start my treatment

You may find it helpful to write down the date your treatment started, and any follow up swab dates in the table below:

Date to commence 1st treatment	
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Date 1 st swab	
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Date 2 nd swab	
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Date 3 rd swab	
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Date to commence 2nd treatment	
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Date 1 st swab	
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Date 2 nd swab	
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Date 3 rd swab	
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The doctors and nurses looking after you can give you any further information that you require or will contact the Infection Prevention Team if requested.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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