

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	Monday 9 th July 2012
Reporter	David Lumb
Headline	Cash ploughed into fight on superbugs
First paragraph/s of article	Health chiefs are ploughing hundreds of thousands of pounds into the ongoing battle to tackle superbugs at hospitals in Staffordshire and the Black Country.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has invested an extra £101,000 on two hydrogen peroxide vapour machines and an infection control post while £250,000 per year is being invested at Walsall's Manor Hospital. Meanwhile, staff at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton are being encouraged to challenge colleagues not washing their hands correctly.
Press enquiry	<p>The reporter wants to know about cases of MRSA in The Dudley Group in 2011.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many cases of MRSA did we have at each of our hospitals in 2011? • How many of these cases proved fatal? • What were the figures for the year previously? • What do we spend on infection control generally?
Also issued to:	NA
Trust response	
<p>Response:</p> <p>From April 2011 to March 2012 we recorded two cases of MRSA that were considered to be hospital acquired i.e. developed after the patient has been in hospital more than two days.</p> <p>The previous year (April 2010 to March 2011) we recorded three cases that were considered to be hospital acquired. No deaths were attributed to MRSA.</p> <p>Infection prevention and control is a top priority for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. As part of our continued efforts to reduce our overall infection rate we have a number of initiatives which contribute to our current low levels of MRSA. These include:</p>	

- MRSA Screening for all patients (emergency and elective patients)
- Treatment of patients found to be positive for MRSA
- Alcohol gel in all ward areas for use to decontaminate hands between patients
- Mandatory infection control training
- Audits against key infection control procedures with key performance indicators
- Root cause analysis to identify any themes/trends
- Cleaning with disposable equipment and audits against the national cleaning standards
- Close monitoring of wards in relations to key infections and early identification of periods of increase incident

We do not record the money spent specifically on MRSA.

For 2011/12 the infection team budget was £368,000; this does not include money spent on cleaning. For 2012/13 the Trust has invested a further £101,000 on an additional infection control post and on two hydrogen peroxide vapour machines to help control the spread of infection, mainly targeting C. diff.