

## What else may be done?

You will have the opportunity to discuss the risks of proceeding with surgery with a member of the clinical team at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

## What is the risk of proceeding with surgery if I am MRSA positive?

Even if you are found to be MRSA positive, the risk of infection is very low, as long as you follow the advice you are given.

## Further information

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your treatment for MRSA, or have any other concerns, please contact the hospital:

**Infection Control Team on 01384 244174 (8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday). You can leave a message at all other times.**

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

للوصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

# MRSA screening Information for patients

## Why do we screen for MRSA?

There are many people who may have the MRSA germ without showing any symptoms. By performing a routine MRSA screen (performing a simple swab test) before your procedure, we can find out who is carrying the germ and provide treatment for you before you come into hospital.

This helps to prevent the spread of the germ and lowers the risk of complications occurring after your procedure.

## What is MRSA?

**MRSA stands for:**  
**(M) Meticillin (R) Resistant (S) Staphylococcus (A) Aureus.**

There are lots of germs on our skin and in the environment around us. Most of them are harmless, some are beneficial and a very small proportion can cause harm.

Staphylococcus aureus is a common germ that is found on the skin and in the nostrils of about a third of healthy people. It can cause infections. MRSA are varieties of Staphylococcus aureus that have developed resistance to Meticillin (a type of penicillin) and some other antibiotics that are used to treat infections.

## How can MRSA affect me?

MRSA may colonise your body or cause infection.

### MRSA colonisation

Most people who have MRSA are colonised. This means that MRSA is present on the surface of the skin and does not cause any harm to the person. People who are colonised will have no signs or symptoms of infection and will feel well.

However, if you come into hospital to undergo a procedure, there may be an opportunity for MRSA to enter the body. This is why patients found to be colonised with MRSA will be given a skin wash to remove the germ from the skin, and nasal ointment to remove MRSA from the nose.

## How can MRSA affect me?

### MRSA infection

MRSA may cause harm when it gets an opportunity to enter the body. MRSA can cause simple infections such as pimples, boils or more serious problems such as wound infections, chest infections or bloodstream infections (septicaemia). If a patient has an infection caused by MRSA, there are a number of antibiotics that can be given that are effective in the treatment of MRSA.

## What tests are used to look for MRSA?

A swab will be taken from your nose and other skin sites depending on the type of procedure you are having. This involves a cotton bud swab being placed in and around your nose or on surfaces of your skin or wounds. The test will not hurt but might feel a little uncomfortable. The swab(s) are then sent to the laboratory for testing.

## How long will the swab results take?

The results usually take four to five working days.

## What happens next?

If your swab(s) are found to be MRSA negative (this means **no MRSA** was Detected), you will not hear from us. You should follow the instructions given to you about your admission to hospital for your procedure.

If your swab(s) are found to be **MRSA positive**, the hospital will contact you, your GP and your consultant. You will be asked to use an antiseptic body wash once a day and to put an ointment into your nostrils three times a day. You will need to use both treatments for five days in a row.

We will then contact you to have another swab.