

MRSA SCREENING

Information Leaflet

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust will be adopting the Department of Health requirement on Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening in a continuing effort to tackle Healthcare acquired infections. It is estimated around 7 per cent of all patients admitted to hospital carry MRSA, even though they feel well. Screening is not compulsory but patients will be urged to participate in this important initiative in the fight against infection.

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is a common type of germ that can live harmlessly on the skin but can sometimes cause infections. Around 30% - almost one third – of people carry Staphylococcus aureus, in their nose or on their skin. Normally, having Staphylococcus aureus in the nose or on the skin in this way will do no harm, as the germ is not normally a risk to healthy people. The majority of people who carry it are not aware that they do, and most of them will not have any symptoms.

MRSA is a type of Staphylococcus aureus that has become resistant to meticillin (a type of antibiotic) and to some other commonly used antibiotics, but it can still be treated and cured.

How is MRSA spread?

MRSA is mainly spread from person to person through hand contact. This is why good hand washing practices and the use of alcohol based hand gels are especially important and effective ways of stopping the spread of MRSA.

Why is MRSA screening being done?

Patients who are admitted to hospital who carry the MRSA germ may pass the MRSA germ on to other patients or they may develop an infection themselves. This is why it is important to identify those people who may have the germ so we can reduce the risk of them developing an infection themselves or spreading the germ to other patients. If we identify those patients who are carrying MRSA before they come into the hospital, we can make sure that they and other patients receive the best and most appropriate care and treatment.

How will my sample be taken? Will it hurt?

A member of hospital staff will collect a sample by taking a swab (using a cotton bud) from inside your nose during a hospital clinic appointment before admission into hospital. This is usually painless and causes only mild discomfort, generally a tickling sensation.

What happens if you find MRSA in my sample?

There is no need to worry, MRSA can be treated. This will not affect your admission date into hospital. If you are found to be carrying MRSA, you will be given appropriate treatment to remove this from your body. Please inform the nurse taking the swab if you are allergic to peanuts, as you will require a different medication to treat the MRSA. Please speak to the Infection Prevention Team at Stepping Hill Hospital if you are concerned about any aspect of your treatment. Patients with MRSA will often be cared for separately from other patients and their visitors will be asked to take special note of hand hygiene measures.

How will I find out my result?

If the nasal swab is positive you will receive a letter from Stepping Hill Hospital in the post prior to admission to hospital. It will include instructions of where to obtain decontamination treatment (body wash, and nasal cream), **which is to be used 5 days prior to your admission**. If you do not hear from us, it means your result is negative. However, if you would like confirmation of these results, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team at Stepping Hill Hospital two weeks after the swab has been taken.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information on MRSA from a Leaflet called MRSA – Information for patients. You can find this leaflet in the patient information leaflet rack on the ward/department, or please ask a member of staff to give you one. If you have any more questions about screening, please ask a member of staff.

More general information about Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus can be found online at: www.stockport.nhs.uk.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact:

Infection Prevention (Hospital queries)

0161 419 4669 (8.00-17.00, Monday to Friday)

Or email: infection.prevention@stockport.nhs.uk (hospital queries)

Health Protection & Control of Infection Unit (Community queries)

0161 426 5488 (8.30-16.30, Monday to Friday)

Or email: healthprotection@stockport.nhs.uk

(Community queries)

If you would like this leaflet in a different format, for example, in large print, or on audiotape, or for people with learning disabilities, please contact:
 Patient and Customer Services, Poplar Suite, Stepping Hill Hospital. Tel: 0161 419 5678
 Information Leaflet. Email: PCS@stockport.nhs.uk.

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| A free interpreting Service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone the Lips Service on 0161 922 5149 or E-mail: tam-pct.lips@nhs.net | English |
| هناك خدمة مجانية للمترجمين متوفرة اذا اردت مساعدة بخصوص هذه المعلومات. الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة لابس أو على الرقم 0161 922 5149 أو عن طريق الايميل tam-pct.LIPS@nhs.net | Arabic |
| এই তথ্য বুঝতে সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হলে বিনামূল্যে বোভাধী বা ইন্টারপ্রিটার সার্ভিস রয়েছে আপনাকে সাহায্য করার জন্য। যথা করে লিপ্স সার্ভিসকে টেলিফোন করুন 0161 922 5149 এই নম্বরে অথবা ই-মেইল করুন: tam-pct.LIPS@nhs.net এই ঠিকানায়া | Bengali |
| 如果你需要幫助來瞭解這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的翻譯服務。請致電 0161 922 5149 聯絡語言翻譯及病人支持服務(LIPS)，電子郵件： tam-pct.LIPS@nhs.net | Chinese |
| اگر برای فهمیدن این اطلاعات به کمک احتیاج دارید می توانید از خدمات ترجمه بصورت مجانی استفاده کنید. لطفاً با LIPS از طریق شماره تلفن 0161 922 5149 یا ایمیل tam-pct.LIPS@nhs.net تماس بگیرید. | Farsi |
| Bezpłatna Serwis tłumaczenia jest dostępny, jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy z tą informacją. Proszę zadzwonić do Obsługi usta na 0161 922 5149 lub E-mail: tam-pct.LIPS@nhs.net | Polish |
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Our smoke free policy

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on our sites. Please read our leaflet 'Policy on Smoke Free NHS Premises' to find out more.

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