

Further information is available from;

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers and where appropriate, relevant organisations to negotiate immediate or prompt solutions. We can also help you get support from other local or national agencies.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: 0800 783 0057 or 01743 261691

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: 01952 282888

Other Sources of Information

NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Telephone: 111 (free from a landline or mobile)

Website: www.nhs.uk

Patient UK

Provides leaflets on health and disease translated into 11 other languages as well as links to national support/self-help groups and a directory of UK health websites.

Website: www.patient.info

Self Help & Support Groups

A selection of websites providing access to good quality patient and consumer health information, covering specific age groups and conditions.

Also includes Shropshire Community Directory which contains up-to-date information on community groups, clubs, societies, organisations, support groups and self-help groups covering Shropshire and its borders.

Website: www.library.sath.nhs.uk/find/patients/

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

Information Produced by: Infection Prevention and Control Team

Date of Publication: August 2019

Due for Review on: August 2022

© SaTH NHS Trust

Patient Information

Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a bacteria often found in the throat and on the skin.

This leaflet will give you information on:
Treatment for Group A Streptococcus,
How Group A Streptococcus is spread,
How it will affect yourself and your family,
Visitors visiting you at hospital.

How does it spread?

The germ may be passed from one person to another through close contact, such as sneezing, kissing and skin contact. It can also be spread via hands which have had contact with an infected person or their equipment

Some people may carry it without any symptoms of illness. This is known as being colonised. In other people the germ can cause illness. This is known as being infected.

What kinds of infections are caused by Group A Streptococcus (GAS)?

GAS can cause common mild illnesses such as sore throat, impetigo or skin infections such as cellulitis. It can also cause severe infection but this is rare.

How is GAS treated?

Your medical team will prescribe Antibiotics when an infection of GAS is identified. These will be specific to the GAS bacteria which causes the infection. Depending on where the GAS infection has been identified and how severe the symptoms are, you may be given various antibiotics by mouth or through a drip to treat the infection.

To prevent spread you may be transferred to a single room. Health care workers may wear disposable protective clothing during your care. This will be in the form of apron and gloves. Some healthcare workers may also wear a mask or a visor dependant on what task is being completed

How will this affect me and my family?

Infections are usually passed on by people's hands. The easiest way to prevent spreading germs is to follow good personal hygiene, in particular good hand washing technique.

Can I still have visitors?

Yes you can still have visitors. We encourage all visitors to wash their hands and encourage you to ask your visitors to take home your dirty washing as soon as possible and wash at a recommended temperature for the clothing as stated on the clothing label.

If your visitors are helping with your care activities, they may need to wear disposable aprons or gloves too, so they should check with the nurses if this is necessary.

It is very important that they wash their hands or use the alcohol hand rub, and especially when leaving your room.

Other important times for them to wash their hands or use the hand rub are -

- Before eating,
- After going to the toilet,
- Before and after helping you with personal care activities such as washing and dressing, eating and using the toilet

Are my relatives, visitors, household contacts at risk of getting Group A Streptococcal disease from me?

Most people in close contact with GAS remain well and symptom free, though some develop a sore throat or mild skin infections. Its important close contacts monitor their symptoms for 30 days.

Remember, most people who come into contact with GAS remain well and symptom free.

Public Health England may contact you and/or your close contacts for monitoring purposes.