

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/

Information in Other Formats

Please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team if you require this leaflet in a different language or large print. Contact number 01743261134.

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

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**The Shrewsbury and
Telford Hospital**
NHS Trust

Patient Information

Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Screening

Why do we screen for Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

There are many people in the community who carry MRSA. This means that they have the MRSA bacterium (germ) without showing any signs and symptoms.

Screening will be undertaken (performing a simple swab test) on:

- admission to hospital
- as part of the process before you have an operation
- at regular intervals throughout an admission if in a high risk area

This allows us to identify if you have MRSA.

What tests are done to look for MRSA?

Following your consent a nurse will take a swab from your nose and any wounds on your body. This involves a moist cotton bud swab being placed in and around your nose and in the/ or on the surface of any wound. The test will not hurt, but may be a little uncomfortable. The swabs are then sent to the laboratory for testing. A urine, sputum, wound and groin specimen may also be taken.

How does it spread?

It can be spread on hands which have had contact with an infected person or equipment. To prevent spread you may be transferred to a single room. Health care workers may wear gloves and aprons whilst looking after you.

If you are an in-patient you may also be transferred to a single room. This is to prevent MRSA spreading to other patients. If you have been screened as part of the pre-surgery you will be asked to go to your GP practice to obtain a prescription for some treatment. Urgent surgery will not be delayed if you are found to be positive with MRSA

The Treatment

If your swab(s) are found to be MRSA positive you will be prescribed an ointment to be applied to your nose and a body wash. You may also be prescribed antibiotics.

The ointment should be applied to the inside of each nostril, using the tip of your little finger or on a disposable cotton bud. The nostrils should then be gently squeezed together; this will spread the ointment through the nostrils. If you can sniff do so until you can taste the ointment at the back of the throat. Hands must be washed before and after application. The body wash should be used daily for at least 5 days, hair should be washed twice in that 5 days, it should be left on the skin or hair for one minute before it is washed off.

Screening post treatment?

A further three screens will be taken one week apart starting with the 48 hours after finishing treatment. Swabs will be taken from the same sites as the original screen; however, if wounds have completely healed they need not be swabbed. Any new breaks in the skin will be swabbed.

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

The risk of MRSA infection is minimal, providing you follow the advice given and treat yourself using the instructions given in this leaflet.

How will this affect me and my family?

MRSA is usually passed on by human contact, particularly people's hands. The most effective way to prevent spreading the germ is to follow good personal hygiene rules, in particular a good hand washing technique.