

The Screening and Treatment of MSSA

(Meticillin Sensitive Staphylococcus aureus)

This leaflet aims to provide patients and their visitors with information regarding Meticillin Sensitive Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA), including routes of transmission, symptoms, treatment, infection prevention and screening precautions.

What is MSSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a bacteria (germ) commonly found on the skin, particularly in areas like the nose, folds of skin, for example the axilla (armpit) or groin, wound and any medical device you may have e.g. urinary catheter.

When Staphylococcus aureus is sensitive to most of the commonly used antibiotics it is known as Meticillin Sensitive Staphylococcus aureus, commonly referred to as MSSA. The MSSA bacteria may be carried on a person's skin or in their nose without causing harm or illness. This is known as, colonisation. These bacteria, however, still have the potential of causing infection.

Why are we screening for MSSA?

Screening enables early identification and treatment to prevent cross contamination and potential infection. People who are colonised with MSSA do not look or feel any different. It is grown from a specimen, which is usually a swab but can be from blood or urine that is sent for laboratory for testing.

How do you get MSSA?

MSSA is found in the environment. It is also passed from person to person often via hands, which is why hand washing remains of utmost importance.

What happens if you have MSSA?

You will be contacted and asked to pick up the treatment from New Cross Hospital. However if you live out of the hospitals area then your General Practitioner (GP) will be informed and you will pick up a prescription from them. The treatment lasts 5 days and you will need to start this 1 week before your operation date.

What does the treatment involve?

Most people will be required to use a special skin wash known as Hibiscrub (Chlorhexidine) for five days. You will be asked to wash your hair in this wash at least twice during this five day period. The scrub can be quite harsh therefore a hair conditioner should be used following washing.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

An antibiotic nasal ointment (Bactroban) will also be prescribed. This will be applied three times a day for five days. You may need further antibiotics if further infection is suspected. Your GP or Consultant may prescribe these.

What happens after treatment?

You will not be screened again at this point.

Can MSSA come back?

Yes, it can come back, unfortunately for some people it may not totally go away.

For further information

Please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

Additional information is available from the Infection Prevention Nurses:

Infection Prevention Department

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Telephone direct line: 01902 695282

Or

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/staphylococcus-aureus-guidance-data-and-analysis>

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。