

Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0161 922 5332

Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service (LIPS):

If you require an interpreter to assist your appointment, please ask an appropriate family member to contact our central booking office between **Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm** on **0161 922 6991** to arrange this for you. Further information can be found on the Trust public website <https://www.tamesidehospital.nhs.uk/patients/lips.htm>

語言翻譯及病者支持服務 (LIPS):

如果閣下需要翻譯員在您的預約當日幫助您的話 請找一名合適的家庭成員 **0161 922 6991** 聯絡本中央預約辦事處來您您安排 我們的辦公時間是星期一至星期五 上午 8 時至下午 5 時

Językowo Tłumaczeniowa Usługa Pomocy dla Pacjenta (*Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service LIPS*):

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy tłumacza w trakcie swojej wizyty, proszę poprosić odpowiedniego członka rodziny o skontaktowanie się z Centralnym Biurem Zamówień (*Central Booking Office*), w celu zorganizowania tłumacza pomiędzy poniedziałkiem a piątkiem w godzinach od 08:00 - 17:00 pod numerem **0161 922 6991**.

لیگوئج، انٹریپٹیشن اینڈ پیسٹنٹ سپورٹ سروس (Lips)

اگر آپ کو اپنی اپائنٹمنٹ کے لئے مترجم کی مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی اپنے خاندان کے کسی موزوں فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہمارے سنٹرل بکنگ آفس سے پیر سے جمعہ 8.00 بجے صبح سے 5.00 بجے شام کے دوران 01619226991 پر فون کر کے اس کا بندوبست کریں۔

Help us to help you It is important that we keep your records up-to-date. If the information about you is incorrect, we may be unable to contact you should we need to inform you about any changes to your appointment. Therefore, if you change your GP/Dentist, address or telephone number, please contact us as soon as possible. Please provide a mobile number where possible as we operate an appointment reminder service via text message.

Author:- Infection Prevention Team

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MRSA Information Leaflet For Elective Patients

You are due to have planned elective surgery and prior to this the Department of Health recommends you are tested for MRSA. This test will show whether you are carrying the MRSA aerm.



What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a very common germ that around 30% of the population carry on their skin or in their nose with no ill effects. This is called "colonisation". In some people, the germ can cause simple skin infections such as boils or abscesses that can be easily treated.

MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) is a type of Staphylococcus aureus that is resistant to the more common antibiotics that are used. MRSA, like Staphylococcus aureus, does not always cause infections, but can live on the skin without causing any ill effects. It was first identified in a hospital setting but is also present in Nursing and Residential homes and within the general community.

How does MRSA spread?

MRSA is mainly spread on hands, so hand washing is the most important way to stop it spreading. It can also be spread by contaminated equipment or the environment.

Hospital Patients

MRSA can pose a problem to seriously ill patients who may be unable to fight infection. For this reason it is important to stop the germ spreading among hospital patients.

What happens next?

Now that the swabs have been collected it will take a few days before the results are available. If your result is positive, the Infection Prevention nurses will consult with your hospital doctor and will review your individual circumstances and needs. Some patients who have a positive MRSA test will be advised to follow a course of "decolonisation". However this is not required in all cases. If decolonisation is recommended for you we will contact you to arrange this.

If your results are negative or if decolonisation is not required, at this time, then you will not be contacted.

What will happen if decolonisation is required?

You will be informed of this by a health care professional and will be provided with an antiseptic "body wash" solution and an antiseptic cream for your nose.

Decolonisation is usually achieved after five days and helps to remove the MRSA. When this course of treatment has finished we may if necessary (depending on your individual needs and circumstances), arrange to repeat the screening test.

If a second test is positive you may be asked to repeat the antiseptic treatment programme.

What can I do to help stop the spread of the MRSA germ?

The most important thing that helps stop the spread of MRSA bacteria is good hand hygiene. Before and after meals and after using the toilet or bedpan wash your hands thoroughly (for 10 seconds) with hot water and soap, or use wet wipes. There are posters on the wards showing how to wash your hands really thoroughly. We expect all hospital staff to clean their hands before and after touching patients and if you do not see this happen please ask the member of staff about this.

Will I need to be in isolation?

We try to separate patients who have a positive MRSA test whenever possible. This may be in a side room or in an area within a ward. By isolation we mean caring for you away from other patients who may be vulnerable.

All staff will wear aprons and gloves whilst attending to your needs. Cleaning of your room will still continue and cleaning staff will also wear gloves and aprons.

Could I pass it on to others?

Yes, MRSA can be passed on to other people. That is why we aim to segregate you and take extra care precautions such as wearing gloves and aprons and practicing good hand hygiene.

Can I have visitors in hospital or when I go home?

Yes. You can have visitors in hospital and at home. As the MRSA germ is passed on through touch, you and your visitors should simply make sure you use good hand hygiene which is proven to be effective.

When your family and friends visit you in hospital, ask them to wash their hands when they arrive and before they leave. MRSA infections are unlikely to occur in healthy family and friends.

How will I know if it has cleared?

We will screen you again after you have finished your treatment and once we have three sets of negative results you will be considered clear. You may be admitted into a single room if you come back into hospital and screened again to check for MRSA.

Will MRSA stop me going home?

Once you are medically fit to leave, MRSA will not delay your discharge. If you live with vulnerable people any precautions that should be taken will be discussed with you and your carers.

If you are discharged to an Intermediate Care (IMC) facility whilst the decolonisation treatment is in progress, you will complete the treatment course but the re-screening process will not occur, unless you have an invasive device such as a urinary catheter, any sort of intravenous lines or wounds.