

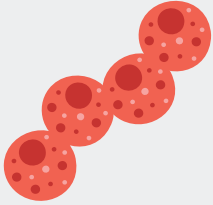
MRSA

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Information for Patients, Families, and Visitors

Why am I receiving this pamphlet?

One of your laboratory tests shows that you are carrying antibiotic resistant bacteria called Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). This information sheet is being provided to help you and your family understand what MRSA is and to prevent the spread to others.



What is MRSA?

MRSA is a Staphylococcus bacteria that normally live on your skin and in your nose, but overtime, these bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics that could treat infections caused by MRSA. Many people who are colonized with MRSA never develop an infection. If a person develops an MRSA infection, different antibiotics are needed to treat it. There are fewer antibiotics available that treat MRSA.

What does this mean for me?

If you do not have signs or symptoms of an infection, you do not require treatment. If you do have an infection, you will receive specific antibiotics, local skin care or a combination of both. Local skin care may include draining abscesses or boils and should only be done by a healthcare provider. If you are prescribed antibiotics, it is important to finish your entire prescription even if the infection is getting better. Only stop taking the antibiotics if your healthcare provider tells you to stop. If you stop taking your medication before the prescription is finished, all the bacteria may not be killed and they may become stronger and more resistant to antibiotics.



What can I do to prevent others from getting MRSA?

1. Clean your hands often.
2. Practice good personal care.
3. Cover wounds or sores.
4. Do not share personal items.
5. Keep the environment clean and free of clutter.
6. Tell your healthcare provider you have MRSA.

How to Prevent the Spread of Infection in Healthcare Facilities and Home



HOSPITAL

Healthcare staff will:

- Place you in a single room if available, or keep the curtains closed if you are in a shared room
- Wear a long-sleeved gown and gloves every time they provide direct care to you.
- Place a sign on your door to remind others who enter your room about the special precautions.
- Clean and disinfect the room and equipment used in the room regularly.

You should:

- Clean your hands before you leave your room.

Family and Visitors should:

- Not assist other patients with their personal care as this may cause germs to spread.
- Wear a gown and gloves when they provide direct care to you.
- Remove the gown and gloves and dispose of them in a linen/garbage container once they have finished caring for you.
- Clean their hands before their visit; after removing gloves and gown and before leaving your room.



LONG-TERM CARE

If you are colonized with MRSA:

- You can still participate in activities occurring in the home.
- Wash your hand before and after participating in activities with other residents.

If you develop an MRSA infection:

- You may be placed on Contact Precautions while you are being treated for infection.
- You may have to stay in your room and stop group activities for a time.
- Healthcare staff will wear a gown and gloves when providing all care.
- Family and visitors may be asked to wear a gown and gloves if assisting with your care.
- Once your infection is successfully treated, you will be able to leave your room and participate in activities again.



OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Your healthcare provider will:

- Clean their hands and wear a gown and gloves before providing care

You should:

- Clean your hands using alcohol based hand rub when you enter and leave.
- Use tissue in the clinic setting to cover your cough and/or sneeze and discard tissues in available waste bins. Clean your hands after.



HOME

Healthcare staff will:

- Clean their hands, wear a gown and gloves when providing care.
- It is helpful for staff to have access to a clean sink with warm running water.