

About MRSA screening

Easy read



Important

In this easy read booklet we explain what some words mean.

When we first mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. A box then shows what the words mean.

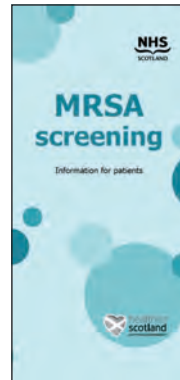
These words and what they mean are also in a Words List on page 15.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in normal **green** writing. If you see words in normal green writing, you can look up what they mean in the Words List.

This is an easy read version of a leaflet called **MRSA Screening** – Information for patients.

MRSA

A type of germ. This stands for Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.



Screening

A test to see if someone is carrying the MRSA germ.

This leaflet is for people who need screening for **MRSA** before they go into hospital for an operation or other treatment.



You may like to have someone to support you when you look at this leaflet.



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What is MRSA?

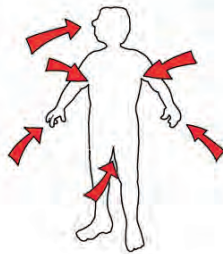
MRSA is a type of germ.

Lots of people carry MRSA on their skin or in their nose.

Carrying MRSA does not mean that you are ill. Everyone carries lots of germs which do not cause them any harm.

But it may be a problem if you carry MRSA and you need to go into hospital.

If MRSA gets into your body through a break in your skin you may get an MRSA infection.



Infection

When germs attack your body and make you feel sore, hot and unwell.

Treating MRSA

Doctors usually treat infections with drugs called **antibiotics**.



Antibiotics

Drugs used to treat infections by killing them or making them grow slower.

MRSA is short for Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.



This means that **MRSA** cannot be killed by an **antibiotic** called meticillin.



But doctors can treat **MRSA** with other sorts of **antibiotics**.

Why am I being screened?

Screening is a way of finding out if you are carrying **MRSA** before you come into hospital.

If we find you are carrying **MRSA**, we can give you a simple **treatment** to get rid of as much of the **MRSA** as possible.



Treatment

Things your doctor will ask you to do to try and get rid of the **MRSA**.

The **treatment** will mean that you are less likely to:

- get ill from **MRSA** yourself.
- give **MRSA** to other patients.



When will the screening happen?

Screening is usually done at the same time as the other checks you have before you come into hospital.

The other checks are things like taking your blood pressure and testing your blood.

You may have your screening:

- in a clinic where they check you before you go into hospital
- at an out patient clinic, or
- when you are admitted to a hospital.



How will I be screened?

We can find out if you are carrying MRSA by using a **swab**.

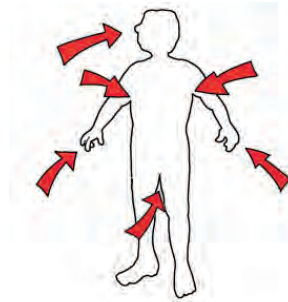


Swab

A swab is a cotton bud which is wiped over part of your body.

A nurse will usually use a **swab** in your nose and your **perineum**.

Other body sites may also be swabbed, as will any wounds or devices.



Perineum

The area between your anus and your groin.

This test does not hurt and only take a few seconds.



When will I get the results of screening?

The **swabs** will be tested for **MRSA** in a **laboratory**.



Laboratory

A place where tests are done on the swabs to check if MRSA was found on your body.

The results usually take 3 to 5 days, but may be sooner.



What happens next?

The hospital will contact you if the screening shows that you are carrying **MRSA**.

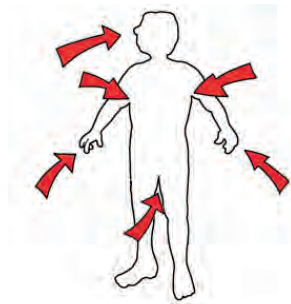


Do not worry if you are told that you are carrying **MRSA**.

Carrying **MRSA** does not mean that you are ill.



Lots of people carry **MRSA** on their skin or in their nose.



And you are not a risk to:

- other healthy people



- older people



- pregnant women



- children or babies.



The **MRSA** germs will not usually cause you any problems.



Your healthcare worker will talk to you about what you need to do.



This usually means:

- washing your body with a special body wash
- using a special hair wash, and
- using a special cream in your nose.



What if I am not carrying MRSA?

If **screening** shows that you are not carrying **MRSA**, you might not hear from the hospital.



If you do not hear from anyone, you should continue with your hospital visit as planned.



How to find out more

If you are worried about **MRSA**, you can talk to:

- the hospital staff looking after you.

You can also find out more about MRSA at <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/sshaip/mrsascreeningprogramme.aspx>



Words List

Antibiotics

Drugs used to treat infections by killing them or making them grow slower.

Infection

When germs attack your body and make you feel sore, hot and unwell.

Laboratory

A place where tests are done on the swabs to check if MRSA was found on your body.

MRSA

A type of germ. This stands for Meticillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

Perineum

The area between your anus and your groin.

Screening

A test to see if someone is carrying the MRSA germ.

Swab

A swab is a cotton bud which is wiped over part of your body.

Treatment

Things your doctor will ask you to do to try and get rid of the MRSA.



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