

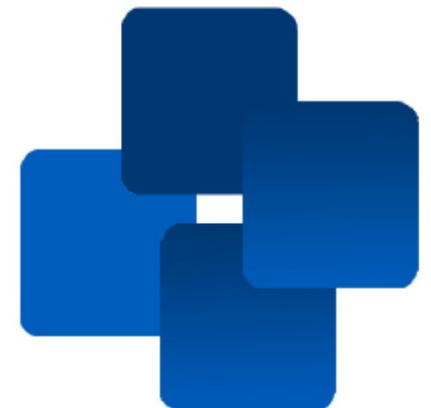
# MRSA Screening

## Patient Information Leaflet



Date of publication: November 2014  
Author: Infection Prevention & Control Team  
Reference: INF                      Version: 1  
Review Date: November 2017  
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## **What is MRSA?**

MRSA is a germ that can live on the skin of healthy people usually with no knowledge or bad effect on them. It can be a problem if you become unwell and the germs manage to enter your body and cause an infection.

## **Why do I need to be screened for MRSA?**

To reduce the number of possible infections of our patients and to comply with a Department of Health decision we are taking swabs of all patient's noses and groins prior to any planned admission. If you have a wound or broken skin these will also need to be swabbed.

Patients with any type of tube in through their skin will need to be swabbed around the tube or in the case of a urinary catheter a specimen will be taken from it.

Taking swabs will inform the hospital whether you have MRSA on your skin. For your best possible outcome we need to remove as much of the MRSA as possible before your operation to reduce the chance of acquiring an infection afterwards.

## **What will happen if MRSA is found?**

You will be contacted by the hospital and given an antiseptic body wash and nasal cream to put just inside your nostrils for 5 days two weeks prior to your admission.

## **Will I be checked to see if it has gone?**

You will be re-swabbed on the day of your admission to check whether it has gone.

## **Will my operation be cancelled?**

It is not expected that your operation or procedure will be cancelled.

Please note that if your MRSA result is negative you will not be contacted by the Trust. However, the negative results will be filed in your medical notes for our reference.