

# About MRSA screening

Easy read



This is an **Easy read** version of a leaflet called **MRSA Screening – What to expect**.

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

**Screening** means testing to see if someone is carrying the MRSA germ.

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

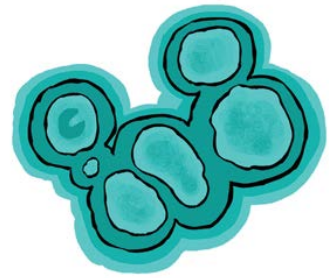


# What is in this leaflet?

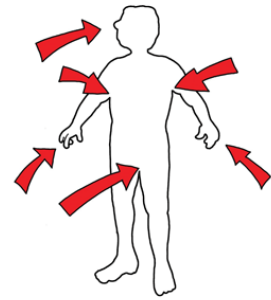
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# What is MRSA?

**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 from an operation or other treatment, you may get an MRSA infection. An infection is when germs attack your body and make you feel sore, hot and unwell.

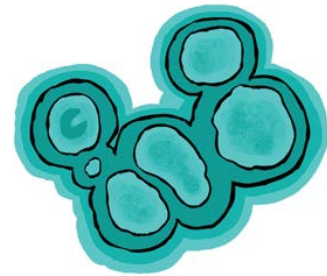


# Treating MRSA

Doctors usually treat infections with drugs called antibiotics.



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.**

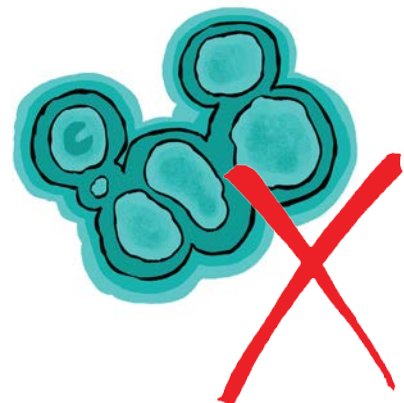


**If we find you are carrying MRSA, we can give you a simple treatment to get rid of as much of the MRSA as possible.**



**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.



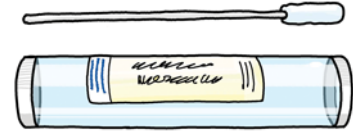
**You may have your screening:**

- in a clinic where they check you before you go into hospital
- at an out patient clinic, or
- at your doctor's surgery.



# How will I be screened?

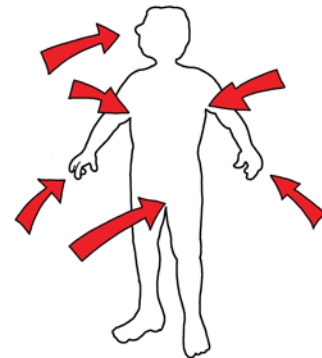
**We can find out if you are carrying MRSA by using a swab.**



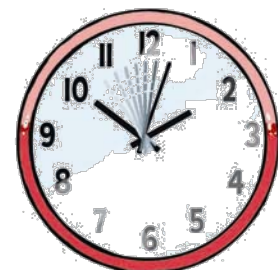
A swab is a cotton bud which is wiped over part of your body.

**A nurse will usually use a swab in places such as:**

- your nose
- your armpit
- your groin.



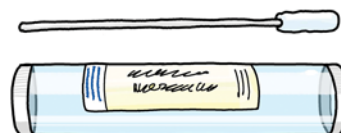
This text does not hurt and it only takes a few seconds.





# When will I get the results of screening?

The swabs will be tested for MRSA in a laboratory.



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



## What happens next?

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

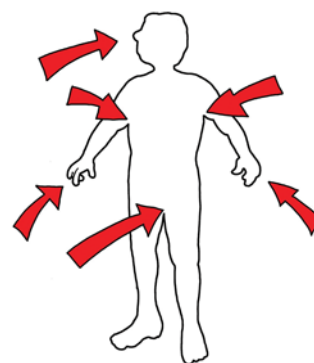


Do not worry if you are told that you are carrying MRSA.

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 doctor or nurse will talk to you about what you need to do.



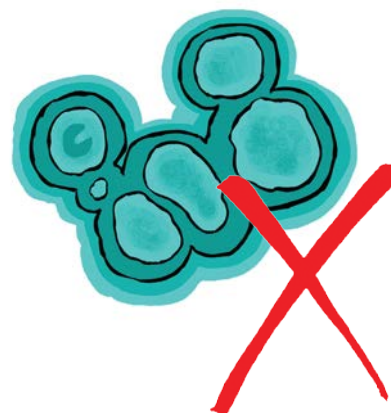
**This usually means:**

- 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 or from your doctor.



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:

- your local NHS clinic nurse
- your practice nurse, or
- your GP.



You can also find out more about  
MRSA at **www.nhs.uk**





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