MRSA screening

What is MMSA

Staphylococcus aureus is a common bacteria

How it is spread

MRSA exists throughout the community. It is more common in hospitals and care homes where people are having medical procedures and are being cared for. Mostly the germ does not cause harm to people unless it gains entry to the body via a break in the skin. Normal social contact such as holding hands or hugging does not usually present a risk.

People with breaks in their skin such as a sore or surgical wound, or those who have medical tubes in place, should keep them covered with a dressing to limit the risk of the germ getting into the body. They should also be sure to wash their hands before and after changing their dressings or touching their wounds. This is because germs are most commonly passed on from the hands.

Screening and testing for MRSA

As you are coming into hospital for an invasive procedure we need to screen you to see if you have MRSA present on your skin. This involves a simple screening test before you're admitted.

This used to be done at a pre-admission clinic, but in line with our new assessment process we are asking patients to do them at home themselves.

Swabs are required from your nose and groin. This is painless and only takes a few seconds.

The results will be available within a few days. If any bacteria is present on the skin the nurses will be in touch and will organise some treatment for you.

This usually involves:

- applying antibacterial cream inside your nose 3 times a day for 5 days
- washing with an antibacterial shampoo every day for 5 days
- changing your towel, clothes and bedding every day during treatment – the resulting laundry should be washed separately from other people's and at a high temperature

If you're not carrying MRSA, you will not be contacted and you should follow the instructions from the hospital as normal.

MRSA swab collection procedure

When you receive the swabs please ensure they are completed and taken to your GP surgery, CRH or HRI within the first few days of receiving them. If taking them to your GP surgery they need to be taken in the morning. If taking to CRH or HRI they can be taken any time between 7am and 7pm Collect your swabs in the morning you intend to drop them off.

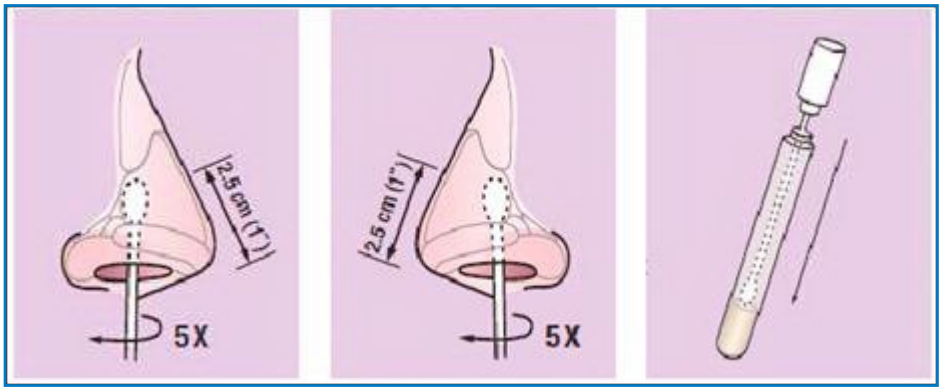
Groin

- Take the red handled cotton tipped swab from the package.
- Rotate the swab gently but firmly over the area on each side of the groin.
- Place the cotton tipped swab into the plastic tube with the fluid at the bottom and swirl it for 5 seconds making sure to keep it upright and not spill the fluid.
- Remove the red handled swab and throw it in any normal domestic waste bin.



Mucosal surface (Nose)

- Take the cotton tipped swab with the white handle from the package.
- Gently rotate the swab around the inner surface of the nostril.
- Repeat on the other nostril using the same swab.
- Place the white handled cotton tipped swab into the same plastic tube that the red swab has just been in.
- Snap the white handle and leave the bottom portion of the swab in the fluid.
- Replace the cap on the tube tightly.
- Attach the sticker to the tube. Place the tube and the paper request form in the blue envelope and seal.
- Take the blue envelope to wherever you intend to take it.



If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology Sister
Calderdale Royal Hospital

Telephone: 01422 222082 and 01422 224388 (Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm)

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਬਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਬਿਜਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉੱਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"