



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once you have been cleared of MRSA by our screening process, you can undergo your treatment as arranged with your specialist. If your stay with us is over one week, we will routinely screen you on each consecutive week.

All of our long stay patients will be nursed in a single occupancy room with the exception of the Critical Care Units. This significantly reduces the risks of your coming into contact with other patients and therefore reduces the risk of cross infection.



**How to find us:** London Bridge Hospital is situated on the South Bank of the Thames. We are next to London Bridge mainline and underground stations with easy access to the City. Please note: no right hand turn from Borough High Street into Duke Street Hill.



London Bridge Hospital

27-29 Tooley Street, London SE1 2PR

Tel: 020 7407 3100

Web: [www.londonbridgehospital.com](http://www.londonbridgehospital.com)

**For further information or help please ask to speak to the Infection Control Nurse**



# MRSA PATIENT SCREENING INFORMATION



London Bridge Hospital



## WHAT IS MRSA?

First identified in the 1960s, MRSA is an abbreviation of Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

MRSA is a bacteria that has developed resistance to a group of antibiotics called Meticillin, although it can still be treated with other groups of antibiotics.

Commonly found in the nose or on the skin, MRSA can be found in approximately one third of the population.

People may be either colonised or infected with MRSA. Colonised people are those who will have no effects from the bacteria and often do not know that it is present. Infected people will have signs of infection which can include: raised temperature, pain, swelling or pus coming from an infected site.

MRSA is spread from person to person via direct contact or from contact with a contaminated piece of equipment.

## WHY DO PATIENTS NEED TO BE SCREENED?

We ask that all of our patients who are to be admitted for a stay in our hospital are screened to ensure that we can remove the bacteria before you are admitted. This will reduce the risk of you developing an MRSA infection or passing MRSA on to other patients in the hospital.

## WHAT DOES SCREENING INVOLVE?

MRSA screening is a painless intervention that is performed by taking swabs from your nose, groin, axilla, operation sites that are less than one year old and any broken areas of skin. If you have a urinary catheter, a urine sample will also be sent for screening.

The process takes less than a minute to complete and is pain free.

Your MRSA screening can be carried out by our outpatient nurses once your procedure is confirmed. This can be done following consultation with your specialist.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF MY RESULTS ARE POSITIVE?

Results are usually available after three days.

Should your results show that you have MRSA, you will be contacted by the hospital and asked to undergo an eradication process.

This will involve daily washes and two hair washes with an antimicrobial solution, alongside the use of an antibiotic ointment and powder.

You will also be advised to change your clothes and bed linen daily whilst using the eradication treatment.

On some occasions your specialist may also prescribe the use of oral antibiotics.

Following completion of the eradication process, you will be required to undergo further screening to ensure the MRSA has cleared.

It is important to remember that just because you are found to have MRSA, it does not mean you will get ill or that you are a health risk to those around you. You can carry on with your normal daily lifestyle.