

What is the treatment programme?

The treatment programme is for **5 days**. This includes:

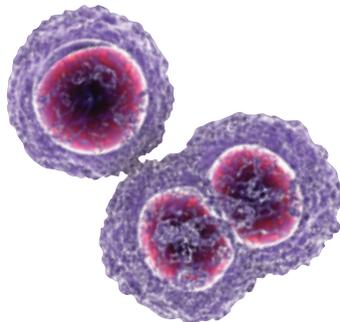
- an ointment to put in your nose
- an antiseptic body wash / shampoo for your whole body including your hair

This will make sure that we have reduced the possibility of the MRSA germ causing you and others any problems.

Any questions?

If you, your family or friends have any problems or questions, please don't be afraid to ask a staff member on the ward or unit where you will be staying, or you can contact:

Infection Prevention and Control Team
on **0113 843 4511**
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

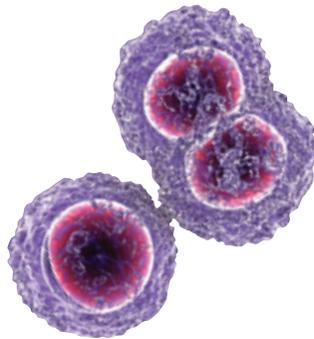


Help us get it right

If you have a complaint, concern, comment or compliment please let us know by speaking to a member of our staff. We learn from your feedback and use the information to improve and develop our services.

If you would like to talk to someone outside the service contact the **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)** on **0113 220 8585**, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm or email lch.pals@nhs.net

We can make this information available in Braille, large print, audio or other languages on request.



Working together for a safer healthcare environment

Leaflet updated by the Infection Prevention and Control Team at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk

© Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, May 2014 ref: 0567

MRSA screening

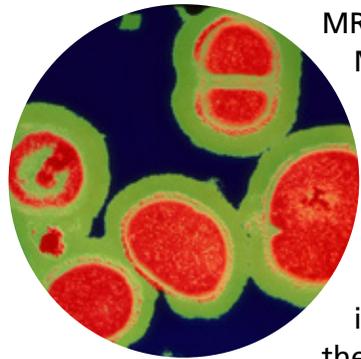


Information for patients,
relatives and carers

What do we mean by MRSA screening?

As part of your pre-admission assessment, or when you are admitted into a Leeds Community Healthcare (LCH) in-patient unit, swabs will be taken from your nose, armpits and groin to test for MRSA.

Why do we need to screen you for MRSA?



MRSA stands for Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* which is a type of germ.

Germs are found on everyone, both inside and outside the body. MRSA, like all germs, live harmlessly on

your body most of the time but if they get in the wrong place (e.g. a cut or wound) at the wrong time they may cause infection.

We treat some infections with drugs called antibiotics. In some cases MRSA may be difficult to treat as not all antibiotics work properly against it.

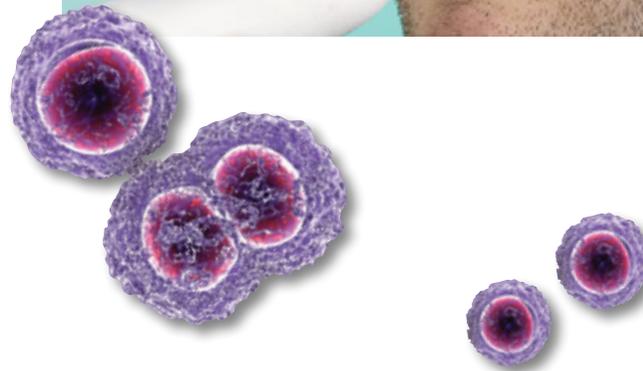
By swabbing or sampling patients before they come into LCH in-patient units we can make sure that you and other patients receive the best and most appropriate care and treatment.

How do we screen you?

The swab is just like a big cotton wool bud. This will not cause you any pain and only takes a few seconds to do. The swabs will be taken from your nose, armpits and groin (area to inside top of your leg).

Samples may also be taken from any areas of sore or broken skin that you may have or any existing lines, catheters or stoma sites.

A laboratory will process the swabs and let us have the results.



What happens next?

We will only contact you if your result is MRSA positive. If you don't hear from us within 7 days then there is nothing else to do before you come in to the ward or unit.

Please do not worry if your results are MRSA positive. MRSA does not normally cause harm to healthy people and is often carried on the skin. It cannot harm pregnant women, children or babies providing they are fit and healthy.

You will be asked to use a simple treatment to get rid of as much of the MRSA as possible.

You will get a letter asking you to contact your GP for a routine appointment. This is to obtain your treatment and further advice. Your GP will be contacted beforehand and will know to expect you.

You will need to see your GP in enough time to start your treatment 5 days before you are due to come into the LCH in-patient ward or unit. If you are already on the ward, a nurse will discuss the next steps with you.