

IMPORTANT

In the future if you are admitted to any hospital please make sure you tell the staff if you have had MRSA in the past.

It will be important to make sure that you no longer have MRSA, especially if you are to have an operation.

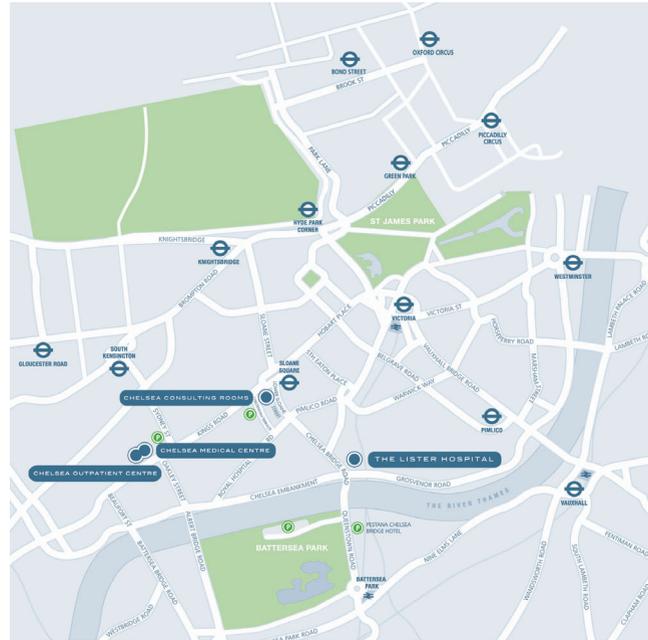
If you would like further information about MRSA the ward staff will be happy to help.

Remember

- This is a treatable problem
- We have to wait until the screening results are known before we can decide if treatment is necessary
- We will not continue with these precautions any longer than necessary.

If you have any further questions, the Infection Prevention & Control Nurse or a member of the Senior Nursing team will be pleased to assist you.

Map



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Patient Information Leaflet MRSA (Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

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THE LISTER HOSPITAL
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What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for Meticillin or multi-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is a bacteria commonly found on people's skin, which can cause infections when the skin is broken or operated on.

MRSA is a strain of this bacteria, which has become resistant to some commonly used antibiotics, but can still be treated by other antibiotics.

How may MRSA affect me?

It is now mandatory policy that patients are screened for MRSA before surgery or other similar interventions. Even if we do detect MRSA on your skin or in your nose, it may not cause you any health problems.

If your doctor thinks the MRSA is causing an infection or he wants to prevent an infection after surgery, you may be prescribed antibiotics.

MRSA can be treated!

How can you tell who has MRSA?

It is not possible to tell who has MRSA by looking at them. The bacteria can only be found by taking swabs from you and then growing it in the laboratory. This may take about 2 - 3 days.

Where did MRSA come from?

MRSA may have been on your skin when you came into hospital. You could have picked this up in the community, from a previous hospital admission or from other people with MRSA.

What will happen to me now?

We will have to take special hygiene measures to prevent the spread of MRSA to other patients in whom it may cause an infection.

This may involve moving you into a single room to reduce the risk of MRSA being passed to other patients. Depending upon the circumstances we may have to move you to another ward.

How can the spread of MRSA be controlled?

The most effective measure is good hand washing; you will see the staff putting gloves and aprons on before making direct contact with you, and thoroughly wash and dry their hands after they leave you. This will prevent them carrying MRSA on their hands and clothes to other patients.

Can I still have visitors?

Visitors are still welcome, unless they are patients in the hospital. The ward staff will advise about any special precautions that are necessary. Visitors will be asked to wash and dry their hands after visiting you. If they help with your care they will be encouraged to wear gloves and aprons.

The risk to healthy people is extremely small. However, they must heed the advice given by the nurses.

How can I get rid of MRSA?

You will be prescribed an antiseptic lotion to wash with, as well as ointment for your nose. On some occasions antibiotics will be necessary.

Further swabs will need to be taken periodically to check on the progress of the treatment. It may mean that you have to continue with the treatment for an extended period until the MRSA is cleared.

Will I have to stay in hospital because of MRSA?

You will only remain in hospital because of MRSA if it causes an infection that requires hospital treatment. Normally you will be discharged from hospital once the reason for admission has been dealt with.

Can MRSA return after treatment?

Yes. During this episode you should continue to take care, especially when touching areas of broken skin. You will continue to be screened whilst you remain in hospital.

We may ask you to continue with the antiseptics once you go home.

If you need to continue treatment or take any special precautions when you go home the Ward Staff or the Infection Prevention & Control Nurse will advise you, prior to discharge.

If we receive a positive MRSA swab result after you are discharged, we will inform you and your admitting consultant of the result.