

## When will I get the results from the swabs?

Your swabs will be sent to a laboratory, which tests them for MRSA. The results usually take between 3-5 days, but may be sooner.

## What happens after I have been screened?

If you are found to be carrying MRSA on your skin or in your nose you will be contacted by the hospital or your GP. Do not worry. Lots of people carry MRSA. Carrying MRSA does not make you ill and you are not a risk to healthy people. This includes older people, pregnant women, children and babies. A doctor or

nurse will let you now what you need to do next. The treatment is simple. You will usually need to use a special body and hair wash and a special body and hair wash and a special cream in your nose before you come into hospital for your operation or procedure.

If you are not carrying MRSA you are unlikely to be contacted by the hospital or your GP. If you are not contacted you should just continue with your planned hospital care.

Remember, if you are worried about MRSA talk to your local NHS clinic nurse, your GP or Practice Nurse, or look on the [NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) where you can find out more about MRSA.

### Did you know?

MRSA has been around for many years, it was first identified in the 1960s.

### Did you know?

In England, MRSA infection rates in hospitals are falling. Compared to four years ago\*, the number of MRSA infections has more than halved.

\* Between 2003/4 and 2007/8 MRSA bloodstream infections across England fell by 57%



# MRSA Screening

## What to expect

### **What is MRSA?**

MRSA is a type of bacteria (germ). It is carried harmlessly by people in their nose or on their skin. We all carry lots of bacteria and usually it doesn't cause a problem. But when a person goes in to hospital carrying MRSA and has a procedure that involves breaking the skin, then the MRSA can get in to the body and may cause an infection.

### **What is the treatment?**

Infections are usually treated with antibiotics. MRSA stands for Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. It is a type of bacteria that has become resistant to a group of antibiotics called Meticillin. But doctors can still treat MRSA with some other sorts of antibiotics.

### **What am I being screened for MRSA?**

Many people carry MRSA on their skin or in their nose.

If we can find out if you are carrying MRSA before you go into hospital we can use a simple treatment to get rid of as much of it as possible. This means the chances of you getting an MRSA infection, or passing MRSA on to another patient, are much smaller.

### **When and where will I be screened for MRSA?**

Usually you will be screened before you come into hospital for your operation. This may be in a pre-admission assessment clinic, an out patient clinic or sometimes at your GP surgery.

Typically, a nurse will take the swabs as part of the other checks leading up to your hospital stay like your blood pressure and blood test.

### **How will I be screened for MRSA?**

We can find out if you are carrying MRSA by taking a sample, using a swab in your nose or on your skin. Swabs may be taken from different sites, such as the inside of your nose, your armpit or groin. A swab is a cotton bud which is placed on the area of skin to be tested (such as up your nose). The test is painless and only takes a few seconds.

