

CAN WE MAKE YOUR VISIT EASIER?

... putting people at the heart of everything we do ...

We want to make your visit to Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals easier
Some things we can provide quickly, others may take time to arrange.
Whatever your need – please ask for help.

We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information
in larger print or Braille, plus audio and other formats.

If you require a translation please call: 01932 723553

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723 553 تماس بگیرید۔ Farsi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553 Punjabi

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براؤ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723 553 پر رابطہ کریں Urdu

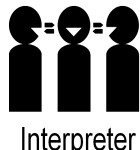
Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553 Portuguese

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553 Hindi

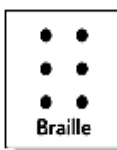
আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553 Bengali



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Interpreter



Braille

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

MRSA

(Meticillin Resistant
Staphylococcus aureus)

Screening prior
to surgery

Infection Control Department

Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3AA.

Telephone: 01784 884488 Fax: 01784 884017

St. Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0PZ.

Telephone: 01932 872000 Fax: 01932 874757

Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk

PATIENT INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Staphylococcus aureus (SA) is a bacterium that normally lives on the skin particularly the nose, skin folds, hairline and perineum of approximately 30% of the population. It commonly survives in these areas without causing infection – a state known as colonisation. **Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)** is a type of SA which is resistant to the more commonly used antibiotics. MRSA can also live harmlessly on the skin and is found in about 5% of the population.

WHY SHOULD I BE SCREENED FOR MRSA?

- It is a myth that you can only catch MRSA in hospital. MRSA also exists in the community.
- People can become carriers of MRSA in the same way that they become a carrier of any other bacteria: by physical contact with the organism. MRSA can be found in hospital environments but can also be brought into hospital by patients and visitors. Therefore it is essential we identify those who are colonised (present without causing harm) with MRSA prior to admission. From 2009 all elective patients undergoing surgery are required to be MRSA screened (DoH 2008).

WHO SHOULD BE SCREENED?

- All planned admissions for surgery.
- All patients being admitted as surgical day cases.

WHEN SHOULD I BE SCREENED?

- Screening will be undertaken at pre operative assessment or outpatient appointment.

SCREENING

- Verbal consent will be obtained and documented in your medical records.
- Swabs will be taken from your nose and groin.
- The laboratory takes approximately 24-48 hours to process the specimen.
- You will only be notified of a **positive** result.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM MRSA POSITIVE?

- If you are found to be a carrier of MRSA you will be contacted and asked to attend your GP, who will also be informed of the result. You will be prescribed a special solution to wash your body and hair and a nasal ointment for your nose. An information leaflet will be given to you and the process explained.

CAN I DO ANYTHING TO HELP PREVENT MRSA TRANSMISSION IN THE HEALTH CARE SETTING?

- MRSA and other hospital acquired infections are usually passed on by human contact via the hands. This is why hand hygiene is so important. Please encourage your visitors to wash and dry their hands. If preferred alcohol hand gel may be used as an alternative to decontaminate **clean** hands.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you have any further questions or require further advice please contact the pre assessment department on the telephone number you were given on your appointment letter.

Additional details about the two hospitals, including information regarding the Department caring for you can be found by logging on to our website www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk or the National NHS website www.nhs.uk which includes an A to Z guide to health.

Our staff endeavour to provide an excellent service but we do recognise that there are times when you may have concerns. In the first instance please raise these with the Senior Nurse or Manager in charge when you are at the hospital. If they are unable to resolve your query satisfactorily please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on **01932 723553** or e-mail www.pals@asph.nhs.uk.

Having done this, if you remain concerned our Complaints Manager can be contacted on 01932 722612 or e-mail www.complaints@asph.nhs.uk

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