



## **Infection:**

When MRSA causes an infection, this can be mild, eg redness and inflammation around a wound, or it can be more serious, such as septicaemia (infection of the blood). If a patient has an infection caused by MRSA then antibiotics, other than the penicillin class, can be used. These can be given by injection, a drip into a vein or as tablets.

As we know that some members of the population are carrying this bacterium, we have introduced a screening programme for some of the planned admissions.

As part of the pre-admission process, some patients will be routinely screened for MRSA.

1. Bactroban nasal ointment (mupirocin 2% 3g tube).  
Apply a small amount to the inside of each nostril using a little finger or cotton bud. Squeeze nostrils together to spread ointment throughout the nostrils. Apply three times a day for 5 days.
2. Chlorhexidine gluconate 4% antiseptic detergent.  
Moisten the skin and apply detergent (approximately 30ml) thoroughly to all areas before rinsing in bath or shower. Use chlorhexidine detergent for all other washing activities (e.g. hand washing) during the 5 day treatment course. Use as a shampoo on days 1 and 2 of the 5 day treatment.

Bed linen and clothing should be changed daily during the suppression therapy.

Please note, this is desirable not essential.

It is important not to start the treatment immediately. Treatment must be started so that the third day of treatment is the day of surgery/admission.

**If for any reason you have not been able to commence the treatment two days prior to admission, it will be started on admission to hospital and continued for five days or until you go home whichever is the sooner.**

If you have any questions, please ask your health professional.

If you experience an adverse reaction to treatment or need any further advice, please contact Infection Prevention & Control or the Pharmacy department at North Devon District Hospital:

Infection Prevention & Control Department: Tel: 01271 322680  
Pharmacy Department: Tel: 01271 322395

## **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## **Have your say**

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

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