

is identified we will also need to take a swab from the nose, umbilicus and of any sores on the skin.

What if my baby has MRSA?

The paediatrician will explain your baby's test results and treatment available.

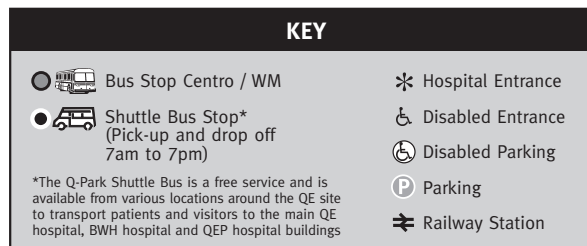
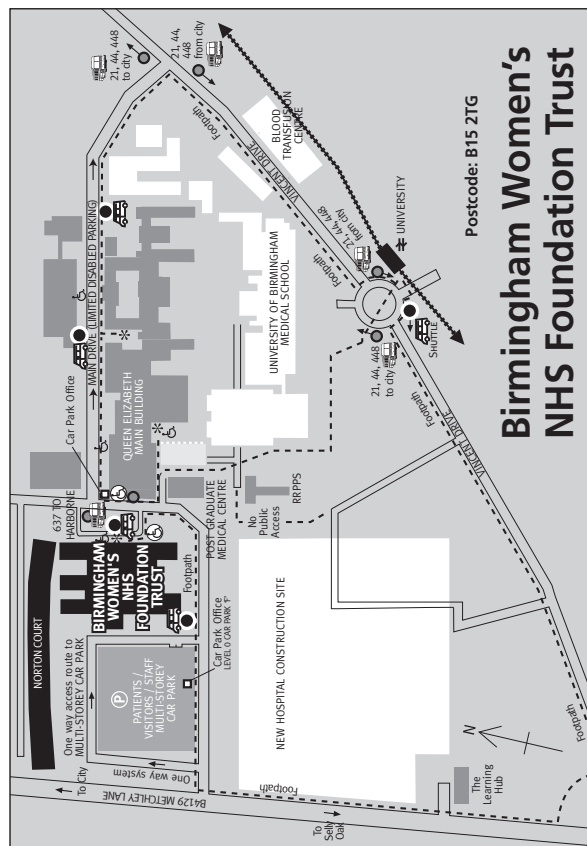
What can I do at home to stop the spread of MRSA?

It is important that ALL the family follow good personal hygiene rules (whether you have MRSA or not).

Wash and dry your hands:

- After going to the toilet and blowing your nose
- Before and after dealing with a wound
- Before and after assisting with personal care for any other member of the family including changing baby's nappy
- After you do household tasks such as cleaning
- **Before eating and drinking**

If you have any further questions please contact your own GP or midwife.



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Birmingham Women's NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for pregnant women who are found to be positive in screening for MRSA

(METICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS)

What is MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus is a common bacterium (germ) that is found on the skin or in the nostrils of about one in three healthy people. Healthy people who have the germ are said to be colonised. Calling someone 'colonised' means that they have the germ, but it is not doing them any harm. Someone who is made ill by Staphylococcus aureus is said to have an infection. Most infections are mild, such as boils or pimples. However Staphylococcus aureus can sometimes cause more serious problems such as wound infections, chest infections or bloodstream infections.

MRSA are types of Staphylococcus aureus that are resistant to an antibiotic called meticillin (a type of penicillin) and often to other antibiotics. Other than being more difficult to treat, MRSA is just like other type of Staphylococcus aureus. Thus most people with MRSA are colonised and have no symptoms. Some people will get infections, especially when they are in hospital and are more vulnerable than normal to getting infections.

How did I get MRSA?

MRSA can be caught and passed on almost anywhere. Someone carrying the germ on their hands or skin can pass it on to another person. It can also be found in the environment or on equipment used by people carrying the germ. People can carry MRSA without

knowing it. This is why it is so important that good basic hygiene standards are maintained.

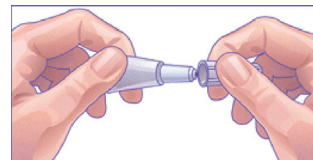
What Treatment will I be offered?

If you are found to be a carrier of MRSA we will offer you an ointment containing special antibiotics to apply inside your nose. We will also advise you to wash your skin and hair in a disinfectant wash.

Nasal carriage

The most effective topical treatment for the eradication of nasal carriage is Mupirocin in a paraffin base (Bactroban Nasal) which should be applied as described below to the anterior nares three times daily for 5 days.

Wash hands thoroughly then remove the cap



With fingers or a cotton wool bud apply a 'match head' size of ointment to the inner side of both nostrils



Press the nostrils together and gently massage for approximately one minute to distribute the ointment evenly throughout the inside of the nostrils



Wash hands and replace the cap back on the tube

Instructions for use of Antiseptic Wash:

Use Daily for 5 days.

- The skin should be wet first which will reduce the risk of sensitivity reactions
- Whilst you are bathing or showering the wash should be applied neat and directly to the skin without diluting.
- It should not be applied to the bath water alone. Pay particular attention to moist areas of skin such as the perineum, axilla, and groin.
- Rinse off the Wash thoroughly
- Wash hair twice in five days with the Wash. Ordinary shampoo and conditioner can be used afterwards

How will I know if the treatment is successful?

We will advise you to be retested 2 days after the 5 days of treatment and will offer re-treatment if necessary.

Are there any alternative treatments?

No, however, should you decline treatment you will be isolated and cared for in a single room until discharge from hospital.

Will my baby be screened?

As you have been found to have MRSA we will screen your baby. An ear swab will be taken at birth. If your baby is older than 12 hours when the bacteria