



MRSA

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Fact Sheet

What is MRSA?

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (“staph”) is a bacteria that lives on our skin without causing any harm
- It can sometimes cause small skin infections like boils or spots and occasionally can cause more serious infections.

When you are told you have MRSA, this means that the “staph” is resistant to some antibiotics, so if you get an infection the doctor will need to use a different antibiotic to treat it.

When you are in hospital...

- Staff will clean their hands before and after touching you.
- They will wear an apron and gloves.
- You may be moved to a single room if one is available.
- We will ask you to clean your hands often and especially before leaving your room and when returning to your room.
- You can continue to have visitors and have as much contact with them as you like. For example, you can hug and kiss your children.
- You can leave your room if you feel well enough, but please don't visit other patients.

When you are at home...

- You do not need to do anything special or different.
- You can share things like plates, cups, sheets and towels as normal.
- You can continue to visit and be visited by friends and family.
- You are free to go wherever you want to go.

Who do I tell?

- Your treating doctor or your community nurse
- The nurses or doctors in the hospital when you are admitted

Where do I get more information?

Infection Prevention & Control team

Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Sydney

Telephone: 9382 2519 or 9382 2083