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<p>如果您需要翻譯服務或想索取這份文件的其他語文、錄音帶、凸字或大字體版本，請向我們的職員查詢。您亦可以寄電郵至 info@cwps.nhs.uk 或寄信到 Communication, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Upton Lea, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1BQ.</p>
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<p>Os oes arnoch angen gwasanaeth cyfiethu neu gopi o'r ddogfen hon mewn ieithoedd eraill, tâp sain, Braille neu brint mawr, siaradwch ag aelod o staff CWP, e-bost info@cwps.nhs.uk neu ysgrifennwch i: Communications, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Upton Lea, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1BQ.</p>

MRSA

This leaflet has been designed to answer your questions about MRSA

Feedback

We welcome any suggestions you have, please send your **comments, concerns and compliments** to: **PALS Patient and Carer Experience Team**, Trust Headquarters, Redesmere, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1BQ.

For more information see www.cwps.nhs.uk

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What is MRSA?

- **MRSA** stands for **M**eticillin **R**esistant **S**taphylococcus **A**ureus
- Staphylococcus aureus is a common germ that about 30% of the population carry on their skin or in the lining of their nose or throat without knowing it.
- This germ is usually harmless, but can sometimes cause skin infections such as a boil or an abscess and can infect wounds. These infections are normally mild and can be easily treated.
- Some strains of Staphylococcus aureus have developed resistance / immunity to commonly used antibiotics (e.g. penicillin). This is called MRSA.
- Because MRSA infection is resistant / immune to certain antibiotics, it may not be as easy to treat.
- MRSA was first identified in hospitals but is now found in the community, including homes and other care settings.

How do people get MRSA?

Some people develop MRSA and just carry it on their skin but suffer no ill-effects; we call this 'colonisation'.

Why is MRSA a cause for concern?

MRSA can cause problems if it enters the human body – especially when someone is already ill. It can cause abscesses, boils and can infect wounds such as cuts and the incisions made for a medical drip or during an operation.

We normally treat infections with antibiotics but MRSA is different – it cannot be killed by some of the common antibiotics we use, however there are still some antibiotics we can use.

Who is most at risk from MRSA?

MRSA cannot harm healthy people – including pregnant women, children and babies – but it can harm people with long-term health problems. If you know someone who might be at risk if they visit you, ask the Infection Prevention and Control Service for advice first.

How can you tell whether someone has MRSA?

The simple answer is – you can't. There are no signs or symptoms of MRSA colonisation. Generally speaking, someone with MRSA will not look or feel any different to anyone else. The only way we can be sure is by sending samples to a laboratory.

What you can do to help stop the spread of MRSA?

Keeping your hands clean is the most important way of preventing or reducing the spread of infection. Please make sure you wash your hands with liquid soap and water. Washing your hands with soap and warm water should remove most germs before they can be transferred to another person or object (such as toilet flush handles or door handles).

Further Information

If you would like more information on MRSA, please contact your local Infection Prevention and Control Service. Your GP or our CWP staff will tell you how to do this.

People who access our services are welcome to talk to the Team Manager if they are experiencing any problems with their care.