



# Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Single  
Point  
Lesson

**MRSA** is a type of bacteria that's resistant to a number of widely used antibiotics. This means MRSA infections can be more difficult to treat than other bacterial infections. People can either be colonised or infected with MRSA.

## COLONISATION

MRSA can be found living on the skin and causes no harm. (Colonisation)  
A third of the population are colonised.  
It is found by the screening process from taking swabs from the nose, axilla or groin. If the swab results are positive then suppression therapy may be required.  
A dental patient can be treated as normal using the standard precautions already in place.

## INFECTION

MRSA can get into the body via breaks in the skin or through indwelling devices. This then can cause infection at the site if it enters the body through a portal of entry e.g. wound infection, via a cannula or, in the blood - MRSA bacteraemia.  
MRSA infections need to be treated with appropriate antibiotics.  
Any advice regarding MRSA please contact the Infection Control Team  
**01744 457314/ 01744 457312**

## Transmission of MRSA –

MRSA bacteria are usually spread through skin-to-skin contact with someone who has an MRSA infection or has the bacteria living on their skin.  
The bacteria can also spread through contact with items we use or wear e.g. towel's, uniform that have come in contact with a person that is infected or colonised with MRSA. MRSA can survive in the environment for many months. It can also be found on surfaces, such as door handles, sinks, flooring and cleaning equipment.

## Infection Control Precautions

