

MRSA Nasal and Skin Decolonization for Inpatients

What are *Staphylococcus aureus* and MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus or “Staph” is a germ that lives on the skin and in the noses of many healthy people.

Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or “MRSA” is a type of Staph that is resistant to antibiotics that are commonly used to treat Staph infections.

When you are in the hospital, having MRSA on your skin or in your nose can lead to more serious infections such as pneumonia, wound infections, or bloodstream infections.

Why are you applying ointment to my nose?

You have tested positive for MRSA by a screening test or a culture. This means that you also have MRSA on your skin and in your nose. To remove MRSA from your skin and nose, and to protect you from a more serious infection, we are giving you a MRSA decolonization treatment. **Decolonization** means decreasing the bacteria.

The ointment applied to your nose contains an antibiotic that will kill any MRSA found in your nose. We will also apply antimicrobial or “CHG” wipes to your skin to kill any MRSA found on your skin.

How long does the MRSA decolonization treatment last?

- We will use an antibiotic ointment on your nose using a sterile cotton swab 2 times a day for 5 days.

- We will use CHG wipes on your skin once a day for at least 5 days. If you have a central line, we will continue to use CHG wipes once a day until your central line is removed.

What else are staff doing to protect me and others from getting a MRSA infection?

To protect you and others from getting a MRSA infection in the hospital, staff will clean their hands whenever they enter and exit your room. Any equipment that will be used for your care will be disinfected before it is brought into your room and after it leaves your room. If you have a MRSA infection in a large, open wound, staff will also wear gowns and gloves when caring for you.

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