

**Appendix 9**

**MRSA Supplementary Guidelines for Spinal Unit**

These guidelines are for additional information only. They form part of the Salisbury NHS Foundation

Trust’s MRSA policy and must not be used separately.

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| **Subject** | **Guidelines** |
| Screening patients | Routine monthly swabbing of previously positive and cleared  MRSA patients is not necessary unless clinically indicated. |
| Risk assessment | Undertake a risk assessment on or prior to admission of a new patient or if the risk factors change. Use the risk assessment tool. |
| Management of MRSA positive patients | Single room if risk factor 2 or 3. If no single room available cohort nurse MRSA positive patients together in one bay.  **Wear** – apron, gown & gloves. Hand wash & use hand gel.  **Isolation** – preferably keep doors closed. However, if patient distressed undertake an individual risk assessment as to whether the doors should be kept open. Doors must be closed during bed making, dressing change or washing a patient and for ½ hour afterwards to allow dust to settle.  **Showers** – separate showers for MRSA positive & negative patients not necessary provided each shower is thoroughly cleaned in-between one patient and the next.  **Showers & shower trolleys** – clean with hot water & detergent  & spray trolleys with alcohol spray.  **Relatives** – only need to wear gloves & aprons for direct patient care. Emphasise hand washing & hand gel. |
| Terminal cleaning | Detergent and hot water followed by a steam clean or NaDCC  1000ppm (Actichlor) to disinfect.  The room may be used immediately. |

**MRSA Risk Assessment for Spinal Unit**

Name: Date of Birth:

Hospital No: Consultant:

Isolation of a patient in a single room may have disadvantages for individual patient care such as adverse psychological consequences and delay in the rehabilitation process which outweigh the control of infection risk. Use the risk assessment tool to decide whether caring for an MRSA colonised or infected patient in an open ward is safe practice. Also use the tool to decide whether an MRSA colonised or infected patient can access rehabilitation in the department, other areas of the Centre or in a single room.

**How to use the risk assessment:**

On or prior to admission of a new patient tick the box (do not add the risk factors) against the criteria. Identify as many of the criteria as appropriate for each patient.



Manage the patient according to the highest risk factor. For example, if risk factor 1 & 3, identified manage according to risk factor 3.

If the risk factors change – reassess the risk and take appropriate precautions.



**Risk factor:**

1. **Low risk of spread of MRSA** – single room not necessary. No limitations on access to rehabilitation (department or other areas of Centre)

2. **Moderate risk of spread of MRSA** – single room preferable but if not available cohort nurse

MRSA positive patients together in one bay. Individual risk assessment for access to rehabilitation (department or other areas of Centre).

3. **High risk of spread of MRSA** or greatest risk to patient health – single room preferable.

Rehabilitation in single room preferable.

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| **Criteria** | **Risk**  **factor** | **Precautions** | **Tick**  **box** |
| No interventions | 0 | None |  |
| Urinary tract colonised/infected  Urethral or suprapubic catheter (Site healing not draining pus) | 1  1 | Contact precautions  Cover supra-pubic site |  |
| Cystoscopy | 1 | Contact precautions |  |
| Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG)  (Site healing not draining pus) | 1 | Contact precautions  Cover site |  |
| Nasal colonisation only | 1 | Contact precautions  Topical therapy |  |
| Other uncolonised superficial lesions | 1 | Standard precautions  Cover wounds |  |
| Other MRSA moderate or heavily colonised sites  (perineum, groin, breast creases) | 2 | Contact precautions  Topical therapy – follow treatment pathway per policy |  |
| Assisted ventilation or ventilator dependent (MRSA  in sputum – use closed system suction  MRSA in tracheostomy) | 2 | Droplet precautions |  |
| Grade 1 or 2 pressure sores MRSA  colonised/infected (Pus not draining from wounds) Pus draining via closed system vacuum pump. | 2  2 | Contact precautions  Ensure wound is covered & treat infection |  |

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| **Criteria** | **Risk**  **factor** | **Precautions** | **Tick**  **box** |
| Respiratory tract infection (MRSA in sputum with  productive cough) | 3 | Single room  Barrier nurse |  |
| Grade 3 & 4 pressure sores MRSA  colonised/infected and large deep wounds. | 3 | Single room  Barrier nurse |  |
| Skin shedding MRSA colonised/infected conditions  e.g. dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis. | 3 | Single room.  Barrier nurse |  |
| Vancomycin resistant MRSA, MRSA strain 17 or  admission from hospital abroad. | 3 | Single room  Barrier nurse |  |
| Acute spinal surgery  (Internal fixation of fracture or dislocation with or without bone graft or orthopaedic surgery)  *Note: once wound closed and healed risk factor reduced to 1.* | 3  3 | Single room or  If MRSA negative cohort nurse with negative patients. Standard precautions.  *Exception to use of single room: if acute patient dependency needs require additional or constant observation, nurse in open bay and use universal precautions.*  If MRSA positive single room and treat infection.  Barrier nurse |  |
| Undertake pre-admission screen for MRSA:  Implant surgery  (Baclofen or morphine pump, Sacral Anterior Root Stimulators (SARS), Artificial Urethral sphincter (AUS) other implants)  *Note: once wound closed and healed risk factor reduced to 1.* | 3  3 | Single room or  If MRSA negative cohort nurse with negative patients. Standard precautions  If MRSA positive single room and treat infection.  Barrier nurse |  |
| Undertake pre-admission screen for MRSA:  Abdominal surgery (Colostomy, cystoplasty, Mitroffanoff procedure, renal surgery)  *Note: once wound closed and healed risk factor reduced to 1.* | 3  3 | Single room or  If MRSA negative cohort nurse with negative patients. Standard precautions.  If MRSA positive, single room and treat infection.  Barrier nurse |  |

Risk assessment undertaken by: \*delete as appropriate

Ward: Nursed in: Single room/open bay\* Therapy in: Single room/department\*

Signature: Date: