



Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA): Screening Maternity Unit

During your visit to the maternity clinic, you may be screened for MRSA. This will include swabs from your nose and perineum/groin. If you are to undergo an emergency Caesarean section you will be screened just before or just after your section.

This will show if you are carrying with MRSA.

This screening process is in place to ensure that you receive the care and safe practice you are entitled to and reduce the risk of infection to you, your baby and to other mothers in delivery when you are admitted for your Caesarean section. It will not compromise or delay your care.

Around 30% of the population are colonised (carriers) with *Staphylococcus aureus*; of which 2% of these are thought to be MRSA positive. This poses no harm; it is only when invasive procedures are carried out that it could pose a risk. Experience has shown that only a small number of ladies will be identified as MRSA positive.

It takes two to three days to get the result from the laboratory.

If you have a positive result

1. Your Great Western Hospital notes will be marked to inform staff of the results.
2. The clinic staff will provide further explanation; they may take further swabs and give you an MRSA patient information leaflet to read. Please ask for one if it is not given to you.
3. You will be started on treatment to suppress the MRSA whilst you are in hospital. This will include an antibiotic ointment applied to the nose and a daily wash with an antiseptic soap.
4. You may be nursed in a side room to help reduce the risk of infection to you and other patients on the ward.
5. If you are discharged before the result is available, you and your General Practitioner (GP) will be informed of the positive result by letter from the Infection



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Prevention and Control Team. On most occasions it will not be necessary to start treatment at home.

If your Caesarean section cannot be delayed, please do not worry:

1. On admission to the ward, ladies with a positive result will be started on treatment for MRSA.

The ward staff will provide a further explanation and give you an MRSA patient information leaflet to read, please ask if one is not given.

You will be routinely screened again if or when you visit certain departments within the Great Western Hospital Trust for tests or treatment.

If your result is negative no further action will be taken.

You can find more information about MRSA in the following ways:

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

NHS UK

<http://www.nhs.uk>

MRSA Action

<http://mrsaactionuk.net>

Tel: 01337 841098

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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