

Patient information

Meticillin Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA)

Treatment to pre-operatively reduce infection for patients undergoing primary joint replacements (hip and knee replacements).

Introduction

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust makes every effort to reduce the risk of patients developing a post-operative infection. Our Trust has been selected to take part in a national initiative to establish if this can be reduced even further.

As part of this initiative, all patients having a total hip or knee replacement will be treated with antimicrobial products, to decrease or eliminate skin bacteria including Meticillin Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA).

What is MSSA?

You may have heard of MRSA (Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), and you will have swabs taken from your nose and groin at your pre-admission appointment to test for this. MSSA bacteria is related to MRSA and is carried in the nostrils and on the skin of around 20% (1 in 5) of the population. For the majority of people this causes no problems however when the skin is cut, for example during an operation, skin bacteria such as MSSA could potentially enter the wound and might then cause an infection. By pre-operatively treating you for MSSA we anticipate that the risk of this occurring will be reduced.

What you need to do next

At your pre-admission appointment you will have been given a pack containing a bottle of antimicrobial wash, and nasal gel. You need to start using both of these

five days before your operation, with the last use on the morning of your surgery. Please use as instructed on the cards supplied with the pack, one for the wash and one for the nasal gel. Please change your bedding on the first day of using the wash – there is no need to change this every day as advised by the information cards.

- **The wash** should be used **once a day**, to wash the body (using a cloth/flannel), instead of your normal body wash or soap.
- The wash should also be used to **wash your hair**, instead of shampoo, on days **two** and **four**.
- **The nasal gel** needs to be applied to **each nostril twice a day for the five days** prior to your operation, taking care not to put the gel too far up your nose. This will mean the last dose will be done on the ward after you have had your surgery so please bring the nasal gel into hospital with you.

If your surgery date is changed and you do not have enough time to complete the five day treatment, please start using immediately and you can finish the remaining days after your surgery.

If your surgery date is changed and you have already used the wash and nasal gel, or if you run out, please contact the pre-admission team to arrange for another pack.

If your surgery is cancelled and you have already started to use the treatment, you can stop using it and we will arrange collection of a further five days treatment when a new surgery date is allocated.

If you require any further information or have any queries regarding this treatment, please contact the Pre-admission Unit on: **01284 712810**, Monday to Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm.

You can leave a message on the answerphone and someone will get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk>

