How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection prevention & control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection prevention & control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to and after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser as hand sanitisers are not suitable for use when dealing with patients who have symptoms of diarrhoea.

For infection prevention & control purposes and to keep you safe and well visitors are requested not to:
• Visit you if they are unwell
• Sit on your bed or use the patient toilets.
• Touch your wounds, or any medical devices, drips or catheters.

How can I find out more?
Contact the Infection Prevention & Control Department on:
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  Tel: 01296 315337
Public Health England        Tel: 0344 225 3861 (option 4, option 1)
NHS Choices Website:       http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
Follow us on Twitter @buckshealthcare

Screening
What to Expect

Patient Information Leaflet

If you require a translation or alternative format of this leaflet please call
Infection Prevention & Control 01296 315337
Why do we screen our patients?
Patient safety is a top priority for our Hospital Trust. Screening for some organisms is essential to ensure you receive the correct treatment while in our care particularly in relation to antibiotic therapy. By screening for certain organisms on admission we can isolate patients quickly to prevent the spread of infection which helps us maintain our low infection rates.

What to expect
During your hospital admission it may be necessary to screen you for a number of different organisms. The extent of this screening will depend on a number of factors:

- Where you are being admitted to within the hospital. Some high risk areas e.g. Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal unit, Spinal Unit and Burns Unit patients are screened for more organisms than those admitted to other areas.
- If you are undergoing elective surgery
- If you have been an inpatient in a hospital abroad in the last 12 months
- If you have been an inpatient in a hospital within the UK in the last 12 months
- If you have been transferred from another hospital

If your admission or procedure is planned in advance, you may be screened at an Out-Patient clinic e.g. at a pre-operative assessment clinic. Occasionally your GP may screen you.

If you are admitted in an emergency situation you will be screened once the decision has been made to admit you to hospital. This may happen in the emergency department or on the admitting ward. You may be nursed in a side room or barrier nursed in a bay during this screening process.

How will the screen be taken?
A swab (an absorbent cotton bud used for taking screens) is gently rubbed on the area to be tested. The procedure is generally painless and only takes a few seconds. Where possible you may be asked to take the swab yourself.

The organisms you may be screened for are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisms</th>
<th>Where swab is taken from</th>
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| Meticillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)     | • Nose  
|                                                        | • Throat  
|                                                        | • Groin/perineum  
|                                                        | • Any wounds/skin lesions (including eczema, psoriasis, cellulitis)  
|                                                        | • Sputum (if productive cough)  
|                                                        | • Urine (if catheter present)  
|                                                        | • Invasive devices (intravenous lines etc.)                     |
| Meticillin Sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA)     | Nose                                                        |
| Carbapenemase-producing bacteria                        | Rectum                                                      |
| Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE)              | Rectum                                                      |
| Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) / Amp-C beta lactamase producing bacteria | Rectum                                                      |
| Candida auris                                          | Various sites (an assessment will be carried out to decide this) |
| Influenza                                              | Nose and throat                                             |

What happens next?
Your swabs will be sent to the hospital’s laboratory; results usually take between 2-3 days. If a positive result is obtained you will be informed by healthcare staff. You will be given a leaflet explaining about the specific organisms and what precautions you and the hospital will need to take. In the majority of cases, the presence of any of these organisms will cause no problem. However it can be important occasionally to help in a) choosing the best antibiotic treatment and b) preventing potential spread to other patients. Depending on your length of stay you may require further screening to be completed.