

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 or have been unwell in the previous 48 hours.
- 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

While you are in Isolation

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or alternative format of this leaflet please call Infection Prevention & Control on 01296 315337

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

What is isolation?

Sometimes it is necessary to move patients to a single room, (which may have its own toilet/washing facilities) or to a dedicated bay in a ward (sometimes called a cohort bay). This is often referred to as 'isolation'. Being in isolation allows health care workers to reduce the risk of spreading any infection to you or other patients. Staff may wear gloves, aprons and/or masks depending on the reason you are being isolated. The staff will explain this to you. Please ask staff if you would like more information about any aspects of your care.

Why do I need to be isolated?

Bacteria and viruses can cause a variety of human infections. These can sometimes cause problems in hospitals, therefore special care is needed to reduce the risk of spreading infection to other patients and staff. Some patients are also more at risk of infection because of their illness and need to be in isolation to help protect them from catching infections.

How is infection spread?

The risk of acquiring or spreading infection can be higher while you are in hospital. This is because of the frequent contact you will have with health care workers and the hospital environment. Other patients may also act as a source of infection. Contaminated hands are the most common way that infection is spread. To prevent this you will see health care workers washing their hands, wearing gloves and using hand sanitiser to reduce the risk of passing on infections. If you have not received the "Good Hand Hygiene Benefits Everyone" leaflet, please ask the Nurse for one.

May I have visitors?

Visitors must speak to the nurse looking after you before visiting. The nurse will advise on any extra care your visitors may need to take before entering your room.

If visitors are having close contact with patients (e.g. helping with washing and dressing) it is recommended that gloves and aprons are worn. Other personal protective equipment may be required depending on the reason for your isolation, the nurse will advise you of this. Visitors should wash their hands with soap and water or use the hand sanitiser after visiting you.

The number of isolation rooms within the Trust is limited. Some infections take priority over others, therefore you may be moved out of the isolation room in this circumstance.

Can I leave the room?

This will depend on why you are in isolation. The Infection Prevention & Control Team will have advised the ward staff of any extra care that is required should you need to visit any other departments. Being in isolation will not affect the care you receive.

Will my discharge from hospital be delayed?

Usually there will be no delay if you are returning to your own home.

It should not usually prevent you going into a nursing or residential home, where, although you may have a single room, you should be able to mix freely with most other residents.

If you need to be transferred to another hospital, you may experience a slight delay as the hospital may want to place you in a single room and this could take time to organise.

What happens when I get home?

When you go home you should live your life as normally as possible. It is very unusual that any special care will be required when you go home. However if any care is necessary the staff will discuss this with you before you are discharged. After you have gone home you can if necessary contact your G.P. for further advice.