

## MRSA and your Child - Information for Parents and Caregivers

### Parent /Caregiver Information

If your child has been diagnosed with an illness that may be infectious to other people they will be nursed in an isolation room, this includes infections such as MRSA and ESBL and is because people in hospital can have weakened defense mechanisms due to illness, surgery and medications.

### What will happen when you are admitted to Anglesea Hospital?

You will be taken to your room from reception

- Hospital staff may wear gloves and gowns when they are in close contact with your child. This is to help prevent the spread of infection as hospital staff also work with other patients
- A contact precautions sign will be on the door to remind staff entering the room what precautions are required
- To protect other patients your child should stay in their room

Visitors are allowed but we recommend that if it is a short stay you limit the amount the number of visitors and that if children visit, they also stay in the room.

Everyone including visitors should clean their hands with hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the room as this is the single most important measure, we can do to help stop the spread of infection.

Please bring your child's favourite toys or books from home as familiar toys are comforting for children and we have televisions in all our rooms.

**MRSA** is short for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus.

MRSA is a type of Staphylococcus aureus that has changed itself and become resistant to the standard antibiotics, so they do not work so well anymore. Most of the time MRSA lives harmlessly on the skin or in the nose, but it can enter the body and cause an infection especially if you have weakened defense mechanisms.

There is no way of telling whether someone has MRSA just by looking. If your child has had a previous positive swab for MRSA an alert will remain in their notes. You may be asked if swabs can be taken from your child to find out if they are still carrying MRSA harmlessly on the skin.

It is helpful to know if your child is carrying MRSA as this affects the antibiotics used to prevent or treat an infection.

If your child has a history of MRSA you can ask your own Dr for swabs to be taken to check if your child still has MRSA or is now clear.