

# I've been told I have MRSA

## ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service

### What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

*Staphylococcus aureus* ("staph") is a bacteria that lives on our skin without causing any harm. It can sometimes cause small skin infections like boils or spots and occasionally can cause more serious things like wound infections or heart valve infections.

When you are told you have MRSA, this means that the "staph" is resistant to some antibiotics, so if you get an MRSA infection the doctor will need to use a different antibiotic to treat it.

### What happens now?

#### When you are in hospital

- Staff will clean their hands before and after touching you.
- They will wear an apron.
- In some wards you might be moved to a single room. If this happens you can leave your room if you feel well enough, but please don't visit other patients.
- We will ask you to clean your hands often and especially before leaving your room and when returning to your room.
- You can continue to have visitors and have as much contact with them as you like eg: hug and kiss your children.

#### When you are at home

- You do not need to do anything special or different.
- You can share things like plates, cups, sheets and towels as normal.
- You can continue to visit and be visited by friends and family.
- You are free to go wherever you want to go.

### Will I always have MRSA?

Just because you had MRSA in hospital doesn't always mean you will always have it, but there are some things that will make it more likely that it will stay on your body. You do not need to have treatment for MRSA if it is not making you sick.

Once you are out of hospital, we might be able to test to see if you still have the MRSA. This will mean speaking to one of our nurses to answer some questions, and coming to two clinic appointments once the nurse has checked your suitability to be tested.

ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service can be contacted by phone on **4222 5898** or emailed on [IMACS@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:IMACS@health.nsw.gov.au) if you need more information about MRSA.

The Health Care Interpreter Service provides a free and confidential interpreting service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For bookings please call **Phone: 4223 8540**.

If you need an interpreter please tell your service provider immediately and they can book one for you in your preferred language.