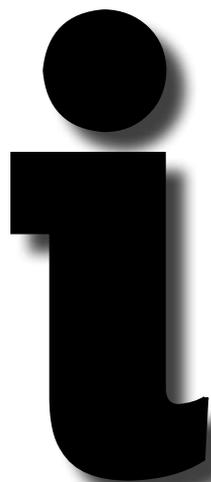


MRSA Contact Bays



I have been asked whether I would move into an MRSA contact bay, to free bed spaces within the hospital. What does this mean?

An 'MRSA contact bay' is the name given to an area in a ward where a patient with an MRSA infection was recently nursed. This patient has now been isolated from other patients. The bedspace, mattress and pillows will be cleaned and the curtains changed before the bedspace is re-used. However, the other patients in the bay were in contact with this patient for more than 24 hours. None of these patients are known to have active infection.

All patients who have been in contact with a patient with MRSA, are tested to make sure that they are not infected. Occasionally, before the test results from the remaining patients are known, we have to use vacant beds in a contact bay. In this situation the ward nurses, the clinical site team, with direction from the Infection Control Team, identify low risk patients and ask if they are willing to move into one of these beds.

Who is a low risk patient?

If we have to use beds in contact bays we must follow strict guidelines laid down by the Infection Control Team. The patients selected must not have any of the following:

- surgical wounds or a chronic wound, such as leg ulcers
- a urinary catheter (device to drain urine from the bladder)
- a serious skin condition (where skin is shed more easily)
- a tracheostomy (a breathing hole in the neck)
- a central venous catheter (special tube for giving fluids and medicines into a vein in the neck).

Where can I get more information about this?

We understand that you may have concerns about being nursed in a contact bay, and everything has been done to reduce the risk of you becoming infected. If you would like further information please ask the nursing staff to contact the Infection Control Team and we will be happy to come and see you. We are available between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Infection Control Team

 01722 336262 ext. 4089

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.