

Treating MRSA

Decolonization treatment instructions for patients who are in the hospital

Your doctor has told you that you have **Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)**. Some patients can be treated to clear their MRSA. If the treatment is successful, this means that you would no longer carry the MRSA bacteria on your body. Your health care team might start this treatment when you are in hospital. You will need to continue the treatment until you finish.

There are 2 things you need to do to try and treat your MRSA:

1. Apply an **antibiotic nasal ointment** such as Mupirocin® or Polysporin Triple®, as directed by your doctor.
2. Use an **antibacterial soap** containing 2% Chlorhexidine (such as Endure 420 or Dexidin).

When do I start?

Start both treatments on the same day and continue for a total of 7 days.

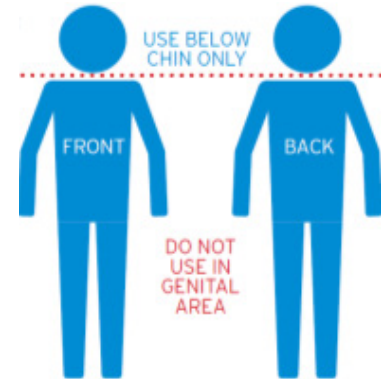


Antibiotic nasal ointment

1. Use a cotton swab to put the ointment in one nostril.
2. Repeat with a clean cotton swab in the other nostril.
3. Do this 3 times a day for 7 days.

Antibacterial chlorhexidine soap

1. Either in the bath or shower, apply the chlorhexidine soap directly to a wet washcloth. This keeps the solution from getting diluted.
Important: Do NOT dilute the soap.
2. Wash your entire body from your neck down.
3. Clean your groin, underarms and rectal areas very well. Avoid getting the soap in your genitals, on your face, or in your ears.
4. Wait 2 minutes and then rinse off your body with water.
5. Do this once a day for 7 days.



Important: If your skin becomes irritated while you are washing with the soap, please stop using the soap and call your doctor right away.

Who may I talk to if I have more questions?

If you have questions or concerns about preventing infection, ask your nurse to call Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC).



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