

Families checking for MRSA

This leaflet explains how families can help protect their child by taking a swab to check for MRSA (meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*).

Your child is currently in hospital and has tested positive for MRSA. To help protect your child and others, we sometimes need to check if close family members are also carrying MRSA. This is particularly important for anyone living in the same household. This process is called screening and involves taking a simple swab, which is quick and painless. Sometimes, parents, other family members, and any other regular carers to the patient may be asked to check for MRSA.

Please read all of this leaflet carefully **before** you start taking the swab.

The pack you'll be given

You'll have **2 swabs**. Each swab is for a different part of your body. You'll need to swab:

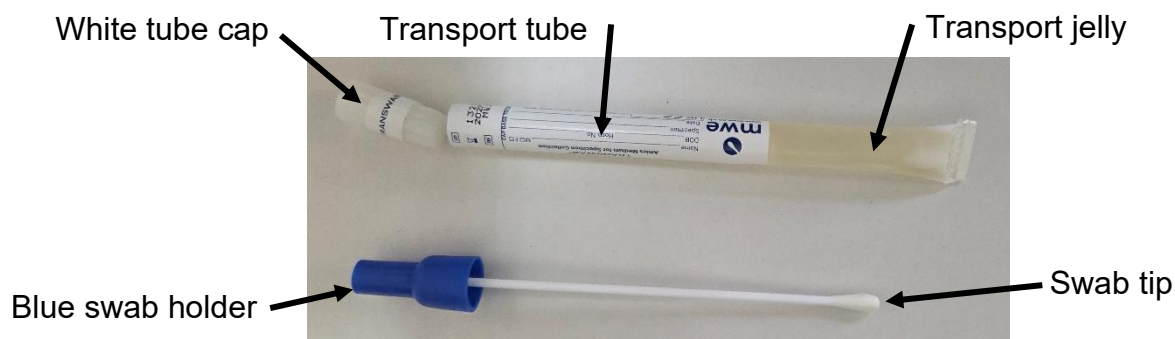
- your nose (both nostrils)
- your perineum (the area between your bottom and your outer genitals)

2 swabs



Taking the swabs

- Always wash your hands with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly before taking a swab.
- Write on each transport tube the site where the swab was taken from ('nose' or 'perineum')



Swabbing your nose (1 swab is used for **both** nostrils)

- 1 Twist the white tube cap to remove it from the transport tube.
- 2 Remove the swab by holding the blue swab holder. Do not touch the swab tip.
- 3 Gently insert the swab tip into the transport tube to dampen it with the transport jelly.
- 4 Remove the swab from the transport tube and put it about 1 to 2cm into 1 of your nostrils. Do not force swab further into nose as this can cause injury.
- 5 Rotate the swab so that it touches the inside surfaces of the nose for 3 seconds.
- 6 Using the **same swab** repeat step 5 in your other nostril.
- 7 Put the swab back into the transport tube. Be careful not to touch the end of the swab.
- 8 Make sure the transport tube is firmly closed, and the tip of the swab is touching the moist jelly at the bottom.
- 9 Wash your hands with water and soap and dry thoroughly.

Swabbing your perineum

1. Twist the white tube cap to remove it from the transport tube.
2. Remove the swab by holding the blue swab holder. Do not touch the swab tip.
3. Gently insert the swab tip into the transport tube to dampen it with the transport jelly.
4. Remove the swab from the transport tube and rotate it along the skin between your bottom and outer genitals but **not inside your bottom**.
5. Put the swab back into transport tube. Be careful not to touch the end of the swab.
6. Make sure the transport tube is firmly closed, and the tip of the swab is touching the moist jelly at the bottom.
7. Wash your hands with water and soap and dry thoroughly.

Next steps

Give both swabs to the nurse looking after your child.

We'll contact you as soon as your screening results are ready. In the meantime, please continue using the MRSA suppression treatment given to you.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about MRSA swabbing, please contact the infection prevention and control team, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. **Phone** 020 7188 3153, or Smart page them on 07731 010 292

For more information about conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **phone** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please contact the service your child is seeing.



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