

Information About

Preventing Dialysis Access Infections

This leaflet contains information on:

- Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA) bacteria
- How having MSSA can increase the risk of dialysis access infection
- Effective MSSA treatment to minimise your risk

What is MSSA?

MSSA is a type of bacteria found on the skin and in the nasal passages of about one-third of individuals. It is not the same as MRSA, but belongs to the same family of bacteria.

Carrying MSSA on the skin is harmless for most people, but when having a new dialysis line placed, MSSA increases the risk of developing a severe bloodstream infection.

What happens if I have MSSA?

All patients getting a new dialysis line will undergo 'decolonisation' treatment. This aims to reduce the amount of MSSA on your skin, reducing the risk of it infecting the dialysis line.

MSSA decolonisation

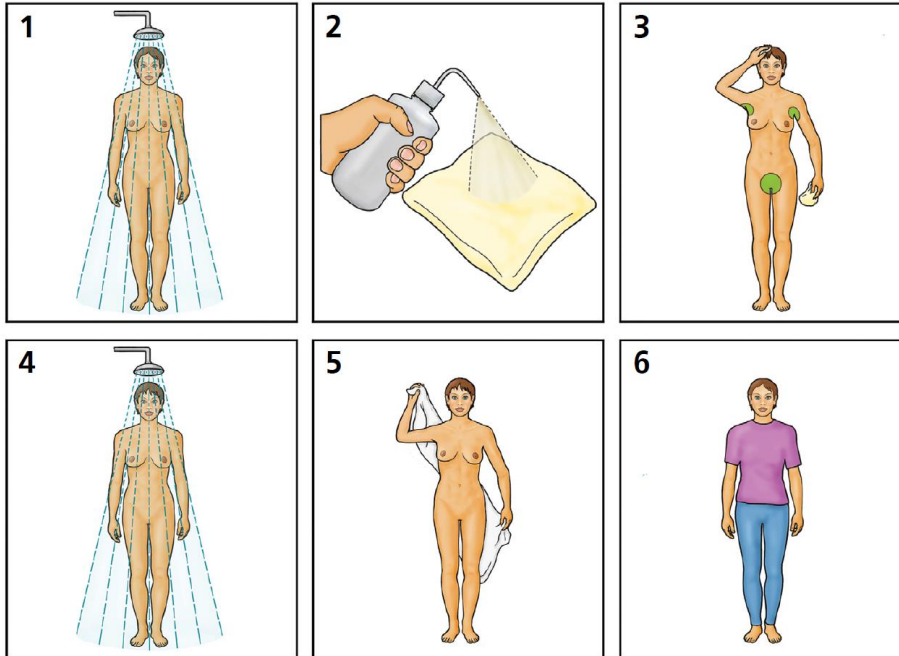
MSSA decolonisation involves washing your skin and hair with a special antiseptic body wash/shampoo containing Chlorhexidine*, and applying 2% Mupirocin* cream to both of your nostrils for 5 days, ideally the days leading up to the insertion of the dialysis line.

**Alternative products may be provided if a specific clinical need, such as allergies, is identified.*

How to use body wash

You will need to use the body wash for **five consecutive days**. It is suitable for individuals with sensitive skin, but if you have an open or infected wound please cover with a waterproof dressing.

1. Wet body 2. Step out of water and apply wash with hand or cloth, especially to nose, armpits and groin, avoid contact with eyes (3)



4. Rinse off

5. Dry with a clean towel







6. Put on clean clothes

Hair

You will need to wash your hair twice with the antiseptic wash e.g. on day 2 and 4 of treatment. You can use regular shampoo on other days. When using the antiseptic hair wash, wet your hair, and apply the antiseptic wash to your hair first before washing the rest of your body.

How to use nasal cream

You will need to use the cream **three times a day for five days**.

- 1 WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY.** 
- 2 PLACE A SMALL AMOUNT OF CREAM ON YOUR LITTLE FINGER OR A COTTON BUD.** 
- 3 APPLY THE CREAM TO THE INSIDE OF ONE NOSTRIL.** 
- 4 REPEAT THE APPLICATION FOR THE INSIDE OF THE OTHER NOSTRIL.** 
- 5 PRESS THE SIDES OF YOUR NOSE TOGETHER TO SPREAD THE CREAM EVENLY.** 
- 6 WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY AGAIN.** 

Will there be any side effects?

In the event that you develop a rash or experience sore skin, please discontinue the treatment and promptly contact the unit where you receive your treatment. You will receive an alternative product that is more suitable for your skin.

Bed linen and clothing

We encourage you to change your sheets, pillow cases and towels during treatment.

Family and friends

MSSA can be transmitted from person to person though it does not pose a risk to healthy individuals. We kindly request that you encourage family and friends to maintain frequent handwashing practises to reduce the risk of spreading MSSA. Your efforts will contribute to a safer environment for everyone.

What happens after my decolonisation?

After your initial decolonisation, you will be re-screened in the dialysis unit in three months. If the screening results indicate the presence of MSSA you will undergo another round of decolonisation. After this, there will be no further testing unless you require another dialysis line insertion.