

When Your Baby Has An MRSA Infection



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What is MRSA?

MRSA is short for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. MRSA is a germ that is hard to treat with the usual antibiotics. Your baby has been infected by this germ. Your baby has been separated (put in isolation) from other babies to keep them from getting this germ. The doctor will use special antibiotics to treat your baby for the infection.



The main places you will find this germ is in your baby's nose, under the arms, and in any wounds (cuts, or incisions) your baby may have.

How is it spread to others?

MRSA is spread by touching. Any person touching the baby can get this germ on their hands and spread it to other people. People in good health usually will not get an infection, but some people (see the list on the next page) can become very sick. Since MRSA is so easy to spread it is important to wash your hands often and follow the Infection Control guidelines in the list on the next page.

Infection Control Guidelines in the hospital

- Before going in the baby's room Mom and Dad should:
 - Wash their hands.
 - Put on gloves and a gown.
- Before leaving the baby's room Mom and Dad should:
 - Take off the gloves and gown when ready to go and leave them where the nurse says to.
 - Wash their hands before leaving.



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Protecting your family when your baby goes home

- Wash your hands before and after you change your baby's dressings (bandages) or diapers or touch the infected area.
- Put your baby's dressings (bandages) in the trash.
- Wash your hands before mixing your baby's formula.
- You do not need to wear gloves and gowns when you go home.

Be sure to wash your hands extra well before you touch a person for whom infection may be a problem, such as:

- People who have low immunity such as:
 - People with AIDS.
 - People getting medicine for cancer (chemotherapy).
 - People who have had organ transplants.
- People who have just had surgery.
- People who have pins or tubes or IVs.
- People who are very young or very old.
- Anyone who is already very ill.



When you take your baby for a check-up be sure to tell the health care professional that your baby has an MRSA infection.



**If you have any questions
ask your health care professional**