

MRSA And Your Baby:

When your baby has been exposed to or is carrying MRSA



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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 exposed or is carrying this germ. Your baby has been separated (put in isolation) from other babies to keep them from getting this germ. Some babies have the germ without having any problems. If your baby does get infected, the baby may become ill. If the baby is infected the doctor will treat the infection with special antibiotics.



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.



(over)



If your baby carries MRSA when you go home:

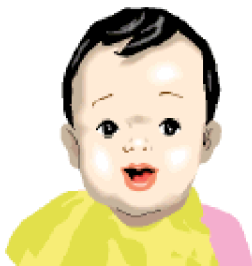
- Wash your hands before and after you touch and hold your baby or change your baby's dressings (bandages) or diapers.
- Put your baby's dressings (bandages) in the trash.
- Wash your hands before mixing your baby's formula.
- You do not need to wear gloves and gowns when you go home.

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 been exposed to or is carrying MRSA



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