

ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE MEDICINA
CELEX MEDICINA IPN



TASK

Healthcare associated infections

INTERMEDIATLE 2

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HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS



Are infections that are picked up in health and social care organisations or as a result of healthcare treatment.

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE INFECTION

This is a bacterium which some people carry in their bowel without becoming ill. It is normally kept under control by the 'good' bacteria in the bowel and doesn't normally cause any problems in healthy people. However, when these good bacteria are killed by antibiotics, C.diff is able to multiply and produce toxins which may cause diarrhoea.



SYMPTOMS

The main symptom is severe diarrhoea . Other symptoms include:



Symptoms may last from a few days to several weeks

TREATMENT

You will only need treatment for C.diff if you have symptoms. The healthcare staff will assess your treatment options according to your individual circumstances.



MRSA



Is a strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* which is resistant to commonly used antibiotics. It is no more infectious than other strains of *S. aureus*, but can be more difficult to treat and therefore the infections can become more severe.

MRSA can infect surgical wounds and if it enters the bloodstream it can cause bacteraemia, and chest infections – especially in ventilated patients.

Treatment

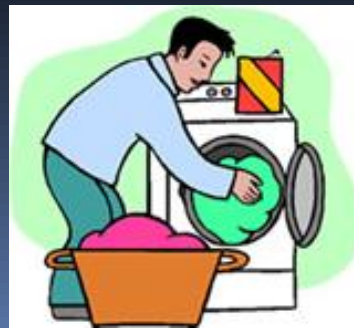
To help you get rid of MRSA (known as decolonisation) your doctor may give you an antibiotic ointment to put up your nose, an antiseptic skin cleanser to use and perhaps an antiseptic mouthwash. If you have any wounds or sores you may also be given special dressings and ointment to apply. Sometimes you may be given antibiotics.

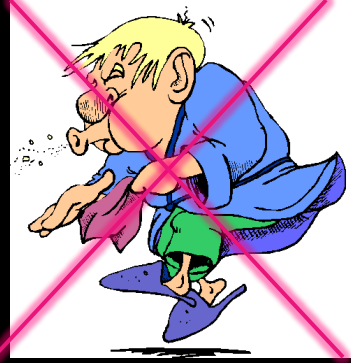


PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTION IN HOSPITALS

To help prevent and control the spread of infections, you should:

- always clean your hands properly by washing them with liquid soap under running water, or using hand sanitiser
- bath or shower before coming into hospital and as often as you are able during your stay
- remember to bring clean changes of underwear, nightwear and towels
- keep your locker and table as tidy as you can as it makes them easier to clean
- send your dirty washing home as soon as possible
- do not share towels or other personal belongings





WHAT CAN VISITORS DO TO HELP?

- If you are visiting someone in hospital, there are steps you can take to help prevent infections spreading. Remember:
 - do not visit if you or someone else at home is unwell with, for example, a cold, flu, vomiting or diarrhoea
 - before entering and after leaving the ward, clean your hands properly
 - limit visitors to one or two at a time and don't bring children too often
 - do not sit or lie on a patient's bed
 - do not touch a patient's wound, dressings or equipment
 - take the patient's dirty clothing home to be washed as soon as possible

