

Where can I find further information about multidrug resistant bugs?

Nursing and medical staff can provide you with more information on multidrug resistant bugs.

The infection control team can also provide you with additional information on request.

General information is also available from the following websites:

- www.hpsc.ie : (Health Protection Surveillance Centre)
- www.hpa.org.uk : (Health Protection Agency (UK))
- www.cdc.gov : Centre for Disease Control and Prevention



Contact details:

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This leaflet was produced by the NRH Department of Infection Prevention and Control.



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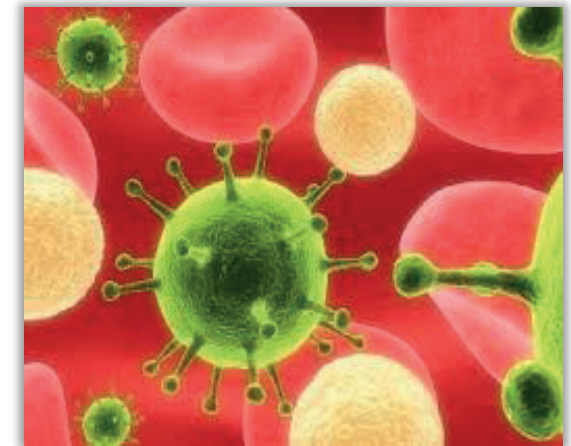


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Multidrug Resistant Bugs



**Information about
Multidrug Resistant Bugs
(also known as multidrug
resistant organisms, or MDROs)
for Patients, Families and Carers**

What is a Multidrug Resistant Bug?

Multidrug resistant bugs (also known as Multidrug Resistant Organisms, or MDROs) are bacteria that are resistant to most of the available antibiotics. You may have heard of MRSA which is one type of multidrug resistant bug—other types you may have heard of are VRE, ESBLs and CRE.

Are multidrug resistant bugs common in Ireland?

Yes. Multidrug resistant bugs have become more common in Ireland over the past ten years.

Are patients in the NRH affected by multidrug resistant bugs?

Yes. We have seen an increase in the number of patients carrying these bugs when they are being admitted to the NRH.

How are these bugs spread?

Multidrug resistant bugs can be passed from one person to another on the hands of staff or visitors, by patient care equipment, toilets or contamination of the hospital environment.

How is the spread of Multidrug Resistant Bugs Prevented?

The most important measure to prevent the spread of multidrug resistant bugs is cleaning your hands.



Ideally, patients with a multidrug resistant bug should be isolated while in hospital, however this is not always possible at the NRH. There may be patients on a ward or treatment area who are carrying one of these bugs. However, all patients are assessed before admission on to the wards and the risk of transmission to another patient is low.

What will happen to me if I pick up a multidrug resistant bug?

Most people who have a multidrug resistant bug in their bodies don't suffer any ill effects. Carrying the multidrug resistant organism harmlessly like this is called 'colonisation'. However, sometimes multidrug resistant bugs can cause an infection.

Can family and friends visit a patient with a multidrug resistant bug?

Multidrug resistant bugs rarely, if ever, present a danger to the general public, so family and friends can visit normally.

Visitors should always clean their hands before and after visiting any person in hospital.

What can you do to help?



- ◆ **Clean your hands**
- ◆ **Ask staff members if they have cleaned their hands**
- ◆ **Ask visitors to clean their hands**

