

MRSA blood infection rates for planned patients

Why this fact is important

People who go to hospital for planned treatment (also called elective treatment) have a very low chance of getting an MRSA blood infection. For a short hospital stay, the chance of infection is also very low. The rate displayed is for blood infections caused by MRSA bacteraemia during elective treatment. The MRSA bacteraemia rate shows the estimated number of infections for every 10,000 days that patients stay in hospital overnight for an elective treatment.

Things to note

The MRSA bacteraemia rate shows the estimated number of infections for every 10,000 days that patients stay in hospital overnight for an elective treatment. NHS trusts can have many hospitals and the MRSA bacteraemia rate is an average for each NHS trust.

Data are presented at NHS trust level. The rate of MRSA blood infections may vary from one hospital to another within the NHS trust. It depends in part on the type of work done in the hospital, and the types of patients treated. For example, critical care and renal departments have more patients who are at risk of MRSA blood infections.

Independent sector providers are not currently covered by this data source and so cannot be included for this indicator.

Things to consider about data source

NHS trusts: the rates shown for NHS Trusts are based on MRSA bacteraemia cases reported by trusts' laboratories to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). NHS Trusts are required to submit these figures. In some cases, laboratories may process samples from other hospitals. Some of the infections counted here may have occurred before the patient went into hospital.

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Independent hospitals: the rates shown for independent hospitals are based on MRSA bacteremia cases reported by the independent hospital to the Department of Health on a voluntary basis. Rates of MRSA bacteraemia are only displayed for independent hospitals that have chosen to submit their figures, and meet a set of criteria about standards of reporting MRSA bacteraemia rates. These figures are not strictly comparable with the rates shown for NHS Trusts, as the collection method is different.

Data source

The Health Protection Agency and Department of Health

Time period

1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009