

Treatment of PsA infections

Although there are things that can be done to reduce the risk of exposure, PsA occasionally will cause infections. Antibiotic treatment for severe infections in vulnerable patients are chosen to treat a wide range of bacteria including PsA.

If you have any signs of infections samples may be collected from you and sent for testing, these samples maybe of urine, blood and other secretions. The results of these samples help the medical staff to ensure you are treated with the most appropriate antibiotic.

Wristbands

When you are in hospital it is essential to wear a wristband at all times to ensure your safety during your stay. The wristband will contain accurate details about you on it including all of the essential information that staff need to identify you correctly and give you the right care. All hospital patients including babies, children and older people should wear the wristband at all times

Need further information?

If you have any further queries please contact your Consultant or the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team.

Infection Prevention and Control Team

Telephone: 01274 364049

We use Next Generation Text for people with hearing difficulties. This used to be called BT Text Relay. To contact us ring 18001 01274 364049

Contact times:

Office hours 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (out of these hours, leave a message on the answering machine and the IPC team will contact you).

Office administrator email address:

Infection.control@bthft.nhs.uk

Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke in any of the hospital buildings or grounds, with the exception of the smoking shelters which are provided for visitors and patients only.



Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Information for
Patients, Relatives,
Carers and Visitors

Caring for &
about people



What is Pseudomonas aeruginosa?

Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PsA) is a type of bacteria (germ) that is commonly found in soil and water, and likely to live in wet areas including taps and shower heads, face flannels and sponges. PsA is found in the bowel in some healthy people.

PsA does not usually cause infections except in people who already have a weakened immune system due to another illness or those with immune systems which have not fully developed.

The infections can occur in the chest, urine, skin or bloodstream.

How can PsA infections be prevented whilst in hospital?

The main way to reduce the risk of PsA is by maintaining a high level of cleanliness and hygiene and reducing the exposure to potentially contaminated water.

In hospital where people are most vulnerable then the following precautions are taken:

- Keeping all the water outlets clean and free from lime scale
- The hand wash basin in your room is for hand washing only and should not be used for any other purpose. Ask your nurse where you can brush your teeth or wash your face

- The taps and showers are flushed daily by the ward staff to reduce the risk of water based bacteria (germs) building up
- Use the provided disposable wipes rather than face flannels
- Use a freshly laundered towel everyday
- Using alcohol hand rub **after** hand washing with soap and water
- Prior to taking a shower your nurse will provide appropriate waterproof dressings on wounds at risk of PsA infection
- Keep the end connectors of intravenous lines free from PsA contamination by using disinfection caps or wipes to clean them before use
- Regular testing of water samples from all the ward taps and showers for PsA, if any positive results of PsA are found then the affected tap or shower has a filter fitted
- Supplying filtered drinking water as routine

What can the patient do to help in hospital?

- Remember to tell your nurse if any of your dressings have fallen off, become loose or wet
- Use the provided disposable wipes for washing, do not use face flannels

- Do not drape anything over the taps or over the showerhead in your en-suite room as this makes flushing and cleaning difficult
- Tell you nurse if you notice if your shower is leaking or the shower head is loose
- Tell your nurse if you notice that the water filter has fallen off the taps on your wash hand basins / shower or if they are leaking

What you can do to help reduce the risk at home

If your immune system continues to be weak while at home then some of the precautions listed can be continued at home such as:

- Keeping taps and shower heads clean
- Avoiding face flannels or regular laundering of them
- Intravenous line dressings should be changed weekly when your nurse flushes the line
- **Do not** remove any intravenous line dressings and if they become loose contact the community nurse as soon as possible for advice