When Your Baby Has a MRSA Infection

MRSA is a germ and is spread by touching. Babies can be infected by this germ. 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 sick. MRSA is hard to treat with medicines that kill germs (*antibiotics*). Special antibiotics are used to treat babies for the infection. A baby with MRSA may be placed away from other babies or in a special place. This is to prevent the spread of MRSA to more babies. The main places you will find this germ is on a baby's nose and skin.

HOME CARE

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- Wash your hands before and after you change your baby's diapers or touch the infected area.
- Put your baby's diaper in the trash.
- Wash your hands before mixing your baby's formula.
- You do not need to wear gloves and gowns at home.

Be sure to wash your hands extra well before you touch a person:

- With low immunity such as:
  - People with AIDS.
  - People getting medicine for cancer (*chemotherapy*).
  - People who have had organ transplants.
- Who just had surgery.
- Who have pins, tubes or IVs.
- Who are very young or old.
- Who is already very sick.

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES IN THE HOSPITAL

- Before going in the baby's room, parents should:
  - Wash their hands.
  - Put on gloves and a gown.
  - Put on a mask if the baby is actively coughing.
- Before leaving the baby's room, parents should:
  - Take off the gloves and gown. Leave them where the nurse tells you to.
  - Wash their hands again.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR BABY:

- **Is 3 months or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4 º F (38º C) or higher.**
- Is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- Develops chills.
- Is more sleepy than usual (*lethargy*).
- Starts to throw up (*vomit*).
- Has watery poop (*diarrhea*).
- Is not eating enough (*poor appetite*).
- Has a wound and there is:
  - Increased redness, puffiness (*swelling*) and/or pain in or around the wound.
  - Drainage that has yellow, brown or green drainage.
  - A bad smell coming from the wound.

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