

## Appendix C – Trauma and Orthopaedics MSSA Screening Protocol

Patients being prepared for elective orthopaedic surgery that involves insertion of metalwork or implants such as, joint replacement, arthrodesis, internal fixation will be screened for MSSA by appropriately trained staff.

MSSA Positive

MSSA Negative

Patient given MSSA skin decolonisation pack to use at home for the 5 days preceding surgery (operation day 6)  
See Appendix B for Instructions on the application of decolonisation (same as that for MRSA)

No further action  
Proceed with surgery

In the event there is insufficient time for 5 days of suppression therapy before surgery:  
  
RN to inform Consultant to undertake clinical review and consider revised date for surgery or whether appropriate to proceed

## Actions to be taken in the event of an MSSA positive screen result:

MSSA positive patients:

- Should be treated with suppression treatment once, preferably starting 5 days prior to surgery
- They should **not routinely** be rescreened for MSSA unless clinically indicated
- Their surgery should generally **not** be cancelled if they have not completed MSSA decolonisation in time.
- The decision to cancel should be made by the patient's consultant surgeon on a case-by-case basis.
  - An example of the decision process being:
    - It may be reasonable to defer a frail, malnourished, diabetic patient with existing ulcers heavily colonised with *Staphylococcus aureus* who has not completed decolonisation.
    - It would probably not be appropriate to defer a fit middle-aged patient with none of these risk factors.

The clinic registered nurse (RN) should contact the patient by telephone to arrange collection of a topical treatment MSSA suppression treatment pack for use for the 5 days prior to surgery.

The RN will notify the Consultant Surgeon will then review the patient record and consider whether or not it is appropriate to proceed with the planned date for surgery or if full decolonisation is required.

The Consultant Surgeon should liaise with the Consultant Medical Microbiologist as appropriate.

The RN will explain how to use the pack for 5 days of treatment and issue an additional instruction leaflet to the patient.