

# PRE-OPERATIVE MRSA SCREENING IN ONCOPLASTIC BREAST RECONSTRUCTION

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**Audit Standard:** All patients for oncoplastic breast reconstruction should be screened for MRSA and treated with topical suppression where positive<sup>1</sup>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Audit Cycle

138 patients who underwent therapeutic mammoplasty or skin- or nipple-sparing mastectomy with immediate implant reconstruction from Jan 2015 to Jan 2017

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Audit Cycle

35 patients who underwent therapeutic mammoplasty or skin- or nipple-sparing mastectomy with immediate implant reconstruction from Jul to Dec 2017

## Policy Intervention

All patients with a decision for oncoplastic surgery made at outpatient clinics should attend pre-assessment unit the same day for MRSA swabs, and results chased by pre-assessment staff

## Rates of pre-operative MRSA swabs

8 patients (8%) had no record of pre-operative MRSA swabs

All patients had pre-operative MRSA swabs

## Pre-operative time frame of MRSA swabs

*This may be an issue as swabs taken more than a few weeks prior to surgery may be less reliable as further colonisation may occur. However, this reflects difficulties in coordinating pre-operative assessment appointments with operation dates.*

MRSA swabs taken between 2 and 87 days pre-operatively (median 14.5 days)

MRSA swabs taken between 4 and 43 days pre-operatively (median 21 days)

## Rates of positive MRSA swabs

1 of 130 patients (0.8%) tested had a positive result

No patient had a positive MRSA result

Positive result **not** treated and patient had a postoperative MRSA surgical site infection

## Conclusion

Implementing a same-day protocol for pre-operative MRSA screening eliminates the delay between listing patients for surgery and pre-operative assessment, thus reducing the potential for patients to fall between the cracks. This is a simple yet effective pathway that could be implemented in other breast units to improve rates of pre-operative MRSA screening.

