

# **Guidelines for MRSA positive patients and staff at the Department of Odontology**

## **MRSA positive patients**

If a patient has disclosed MRSA positivity on his/her own accord (you are not allowed to ask directly), enquire after:

- Whether the patient is a carrier of or has an active MRSA infection and if so, which type (skin/wound, airways)
- Whether the patient has received treatment and control swapping for MRSA and with what result (written documentation must be presented)

All information regarding MRSA must be stated in the patient record.

## **How to handle the patient**

1. If control swapping has been documented as negative (only one swap is necessary), treat the patient similarly to other patients
2. If there is no documentation of negative control swap:
  - a. Refer patients with non-acute treatment need to the waiting list to be treated after documentation of negative control swap
  - b. Treat patients with acute treatment need at the visitation clinic after the guidelines described below.
  - c. Treat patients who are already in treatment after the guidelines described below. If the patient is treated by a student the patient is transferred to the specialist clinic without further cost. The student is allowed to participate/assist in the treatment

## **Guidelines for treatment of MRSA positive patients**

When treating an MRSA positive patient you must contact one of the following area managers who will provide you with material from the MRSA locker and instruct you in the specific guidelines:

- Erik Ravn (29.1.24) tel. 35 32 69 20
- Pia Rimhoff (31.1.26) tel. 35 32 69 30
- Charlotte Hegelund (31.2.24) tel. 35 32 69 50

## **Correct hand hygiene is essential in order to prevent MRSA infection**

Supplementary guidelines (additional to the general infection hygienic guidelines)

- The treatment is conducted in a smaller/separate clinic if possible.

- The treatment is assisted by a clinical assistant who collects materials from the hallway, who may assist at the chair and for x-rays, who cleans and surface disinfects x-ray room and unit after the treatment, who collects waste and delivers and handles instruments for multiple use in the rinsing room.
- MRSA infected/colonized wounds must be covered by a sealing bandage.

### **Personal guards**

- Medical disposable gloves and fluid-repellent pull-on white coat with long sleeves fitted closely around the wrists are to be worn for all direct contact with the patient (including skin contact), instruments, equipment and materials that have been in contact with the patient as well as waste during the treatment. This is in effect for the treating dentist/student and the clinical assistant at the chair and during cleaning, disinfection and handling of instrument after the treatment.
- When treating MRSA positive patients surgical mask/mouth cover must always be worn.

### **Cleaning and disinfection**

- X-ray photography takes place, if possible, at the local clinic. The x-ray machine is covered with a large "shower cap". Non-covered areas of the x-ray room must be cleaned and surface disinfected with ethanol (70-85%) immediately after use.
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### **The Hygiene committee**