

Infection prevention and control

Multi drug resistant organisms (MDRO)

What are multi drug resistant organisms?

MDRO are bacteria (or germs) that are resistant to at least three different antibiotics. MDRO refers to common organisms such as *Escherichia coli*, *Acineobacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and other organisms that have become resistant to three or more antibiotics.

Why does having bacteria with resistance matter?

Clinical staff have relied on certain antibiotics to successfully treat particularly 'difficult' infections where other antibiotics have failed to do so. In a hospital, where there are many vulnerable patients, spread of resistant bacteria can cause problems. If the bacteria get into the wrong place, such as the bladder, bloodstream or open wound, they can cause infection which may be difficult to treat.

Do multi drug resistant organisms need to be treated?

If the bacteria have caused an infection giving symptoms, then antibiotics may be required.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



How did I pick up multi drug resistant organisms?

These bacteria can sometimes be found living harmlessly in the gut and on the skin of humans, and this is called 'colonisation'. It can be difficult to say when or where you picked it up.

How will I be cared for whilst in hospital?

You will be accommodated in a single room with toilet facilities whilst in hospital. You may be asked to provide a number of samples, depending on your length of stay, to check if you are still carrying the bacteria.

How can the spread of multi drug resistant organisms be prevented?

Accommodating you in a single room will help to prevent spread the bacteria. Healthcare workers will wash their hands regularly. They will use gloves and aprons or gowns when caring for you. The most important measure for you to take is to wash your hands well with soap and water, especially after going to the toilet.

You should avoid touching medical devices (if you have any) such as your urinary catheter tube and your intravenous drip, particularly at the point where it is inserted into the body or skin. Visitors will be asked to wash their hands on entering and leaving the room and may be asked to wear an apron if they are providing personal care to you.

What about when I go home?

There is a chance that you may still be a carrier when you go home but quite often the bacteria will go away with time. No special measures or treatment are needed; any infection will have been treated before your discharge. You should carry on as normal, maintaining good hand hygiene. If you have any concerns you may wish to contact your GP for advice. Before you leave the hospital, ask the doctor or nurse to give you a letter or card advising that you have had an infection. This will be useful for you in the future, and it is important that you make health care staff aware of it.

Where can I find more information?

If you would like any further information, please speak to a member of the team caring for you, who may also contact the infection prevention and control team for you.

Infection prevention and control team

Tel: 0161 446 3731