



1. **MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is a common strain of bacteria and MRSA, as the name suggests, is a strain of the bacteria that has become resistant to commonly-used antibiotics.**
2. **The organism Staphylococcus aureus is found on the skin of many individuals and seems to cause no major problems. However if it gets inside the body, for instance under the skin or into the lungs, it can cause serious infection.**
3. **Those most vulnerable to MRSA are hospital patients who tend to be sicker and weaker than the general population.**
4. **MRSA represents a massive drain on NHS resources in terms of costs associated with treating patients and controlling the spread of infection.**
5. **There are many hidden costs for those who have suffered from MRSA infection, their families and friends - for example, loss of earnings, pain, anxiety and perhaps quality of life.**
6. **Whilst an effective hand-washing routine may be the single most-effective solution to driving down MRSA rates, Chief Nursing Officer Chris Beasley states, "It is clear there is no single solution to driving down infection and we need a whole package of measures to combat MRSA."**
7. **A clear infection control policy supported by a vigorous educational programme will be required to bring the situation under control.**
8. **The government insists no stone will be left unturned in the battle against the MRSA superbug and is raising awareness of good practice, encouraging us all to demand the highest standards of hygiene in our hospitals. At Forbo we believe this should encompass the specification of materials and products that are most appropriate for a healthcare environment.**

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