Appendix 7

MRSA GUIDELINES FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

These guidelines are for additional information only. The form part of the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust’s MRSA Policy and must not be used separately.

1. **Pre-Assessment Screens for MRSA in Elective Eye Surgery**
   Screen only patients considered to be at risk of MRSA carriage, see section 2.2.1 of the Policy. Note that Department of Health does not stipulate that elective day case ophthalmology need to be screened for MRSA.

   Swabs for MRSA should be taken from:
   - Eyes only if symptoms or signs present.
   - Nose and groin (one swab from both sides).
   - Other sites if appropriate – see section 2.2.3.

2. **When MRSA has been detected in a patient**

   **MRSA detected in sites other than the eyes**
   - Commence 5 days topical treatment regimen – nasal mupirocin and chlorhexidine body wash for 5 days before the planned surgery date – see section 2.2.6
   - Contact the Consultant Microbiologist for advice if there are signs and symptoms of infection.
   - Chloramphenical drops QDS for 48 hours up to the time of surgery and for 2 weeks post-operatively. Consult the Consultant Microbiologist for further advice on additional antibiotic prophylaxis, if necessary.

   **MRSA detected in the eyes**
   - Swab carriage sites for MRSA if not previously done.
   - Discuss with Consultant Microbiologist and treat with appropriate topical antibiotics for minimum of 5 days.
   - Commence 5 days topical treatment regime as outlined in section 2.2.6 of the policy.
   - Repeat eye and screening swabs 48 hours after the completion of treatment.
   - **AIM** for 3 consecutive negative cultures in the eyes prior to the surgery.
   - Recommence 5 day topical treatment pre-operatively 5 days before the planned surgery, if indicated.
   - Chloramphenical drops QDS for 48 hours up to the time of surgery and for 2 weeks post-operatively.
   - Additional antibiotic cover at the time of operation to be assessed on an individual basis, consult the Consultant Microbiologist for further advice.