Appendix 11

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

These guidelines are for additional information only. They form part of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust’s Clinical Management of MRSA policy and must not be used separately.

Protocol for the Management of Patients with MRSA

GENERAL POINTS

- Patients do not stay in the department for long period of time, so there is less risk of environmental contamination.
- To protect those patient who do not have MRSA, it is important to maintain standards of infection control.
- It should be remembered that patients with MRSA (colonised in wounds or drainage tube sites, and those with productive coughs, flaking skin conditions (skin shedder) or incontinence) are the most likely to contaminate your examination room.
- Staff should wear disposable aprons and gloves; cuts and grazes should be covered. Those with eczema or dermatitis should be discouraged from dealing with known infected patients.
- ‘Contacts’ or those from an MRSA infected bay, should be treated as positive.
- The spread of MRSA can be minimised by thorough hand washing between patients and thorough cleaning of all equipment used.

STANDARD PROCEDURE

- Patients should be examined last on the list to enable efficient cleaning of the room.
- Before the examination, remove as much equipment as possible from the room. Cover the examination table with paper or linen sheets and shelving, worktops etc. similarly.
- During the examination staff should wear disposable aprons and gloves and should not leave the room without disposing of them in clinical waste bags and washing their hands.
- After the procedure, the patient should be returned to the ward as soon as possible.
- All contaminated disposable items should be disposed of in a clinical waste bag, including oxygen masks and tubing and suction tubing. Contaminated linen should be placed in water-soluble bags inside a red outer bag.
- These items should be removed/disposed of before the Housekeeping staff clean the room
- All surfaces with which the patient has had contact should be wiped with hot soapy water and a disposable cloth, followed by an ‘Actichlor’ solution clean.
- If the patient is a ‘heavy shedder’ or sputum positive and actively coughing, the floor area should be washed with hot soapy water followed by an ‘Actichlor’ clean. Use the red bucket and mop found in Processing Area 3. After use, place mop head in Processing Area 4 in a polythene bag, ready for collection.
- ‘Danger of Infection’ labels do not need to be used on specimens from MRSA positive patients. When returning equipment to SDU, please items in water-soluble bag.