

# Staphylococcus aureus reduction

## What is Staphylococcus aureus?

*Staphylococcus aureus* (*Staph A*) is a common bacteria that lives in the nose, throat and on the skin of approximately 25% of the population. Usually people carry these bacteria without it causing any harm – this is called carriage.

## Why is it important to test for *Staph A*?

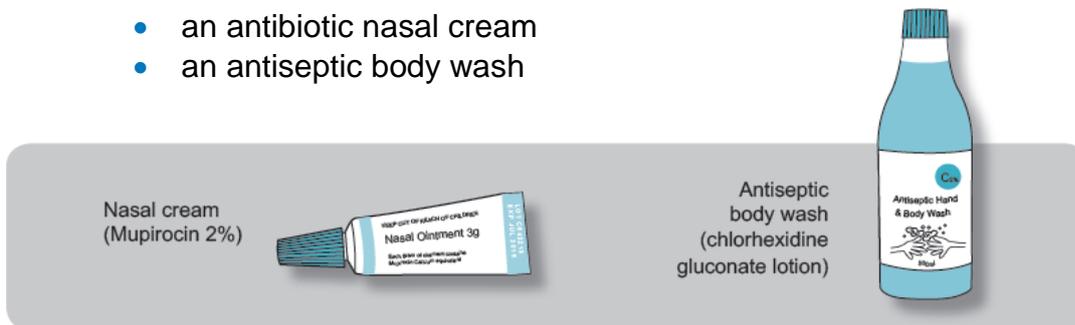
People who are carrying *Staph A* are more likely to develop an infection when they have a weakened immune system, as occurs with leukaemia and its treatment. The risk of this happening can be decreased if we reduce the amount of *Staph A* in the nose and on the skin.

Swabs were taken before or soon after commencing treatment for leukaemia. These swabs have shown that your child is carrying *Staph A*. and we will commence a treatment to reduce the carriage of this bacteria on your child.

## What treatment is given to people who are carrying *Staph A*?

Two products are used the body to help reduce *Staph A*. over a 5 day period

- an antibiotic nasal cream
- an antiseptic body wash



**Antiseptic body wash** – use this once a day for 5 days.

Moisten the whole body with water using a face cloth or in the shower or bath.



- Apply the body wash to the whole body taking special care of areas such as the face, neck, armpits, groin, genital areas and between skin folds.
- the soap will not lather up much, this is OK.
- Work from the top down and wash the anal area last.



- Once the whole body has been covered with the body wash, it needs 2 minutes of contact with the skin to effectively kill the bacteria.
- After 2 minutes rinse off the body wash.

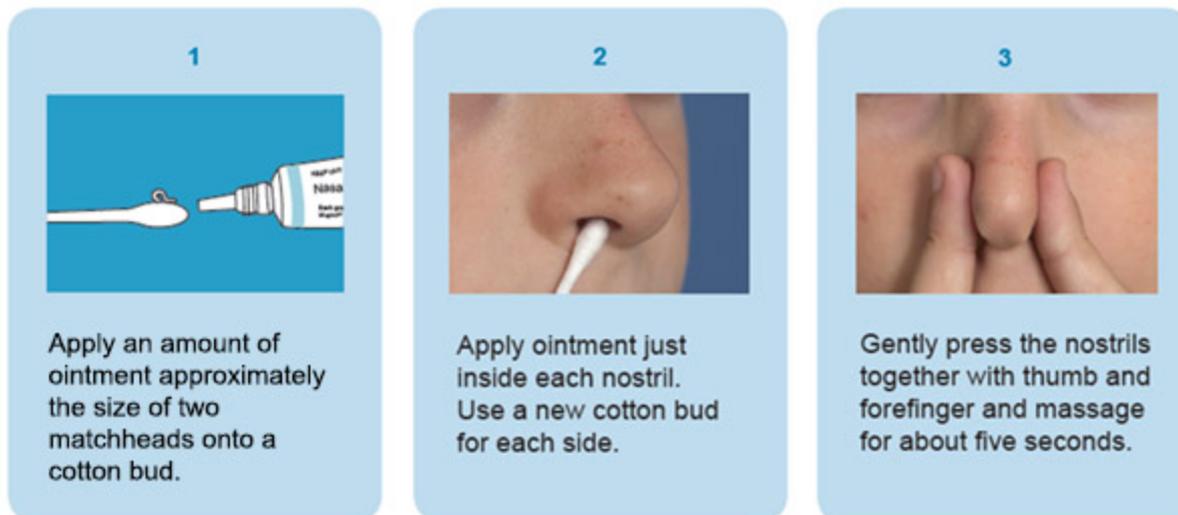


Wash hair with the body wash once during the five day treatment (conditioner can be applied afterwards as normal).





**Nose cream** – do this twice a day for 5 days.



**Please note:** It is important to adhere to the time frame specified unless directed otherwise. Prolonged treatment may be associated with dry skin. If this occurs please notify your treating team.

Should you have any questions about these instructions, please contact

- Clinic H: 6456 0170
- Ward 1A: 6456 3517



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
Produced by Infection Control  
Ref: 819c © CAHS 2018



**Disclaimer:** This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.  
© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service.