

Instructions for Visitors

All visitors should clean their hands before and after they visit you. Visitors do not usually need to wear aprons and gloves.

If your visitor has a long term health condition they should speak to a member of the nursing staff before visiting you.

If a visitor is helping out with your physical care, please speak to nursing staff who will advise if extra precautions are needed i.e. to wear gloves and aprons..

Visitors should not visit other patients during or after their visit with you.

What can I do to help?

If you are readmitted here or to another hospital, please inform a healthcare worker.

Remember good hand washing practice limits the spread of infection.

How can I contact a member of the Infection Prevention & Control Team?

Tell the Clinical Nurse Manager, doctor or nurse looking after you if you would like to speak to a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team and they will contact us.

Additional information can be found at : <http://intranet.tuh.ie/departments/IPC/Pages/home.aspx>

We have made every possible effort to make sure that all the information provided in this leaflet is true, accurate, complete and up to date at the time of publication

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Reference: Hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk
hpsc.ie

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PATIENT
INFORMATION
LEAFLET

AmpC



What is AmpC?

AmpC is an enzyme (chemical) which may be produced by some types of bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Klebsiella*. This makes them resistant to commonly used antibiotics. If these bacteria cause infections then they may be more difficult to treat.



What infections do they cause?

These bacteria may be carried by healthy people in their body and may not require any treatment. Occasionally they may cause infections such as urinary tract infections, wound infections or in severe cases, bloodstream infection. The laboratory will detect AmpC in samples sent by your doctor. Your doctor will decide if you need treatment depending on whether you are just carrying the bacteria in your body or if you have an infection.

How can AmpC be spread?

These bacteria normally live in the bowel (gut). They can be spread accidentally via faecal contamination of hands and then passed into the mouth if hands are not cleaned properly. They can be spread by patients, relatives and healthcare workers after contact with a patient carrying AmpC, or if equipment is not cleaned after use on these patients.

Do I have to stay in hospital longer?

You can go home as soon as your doctor says you are ready. Carrying AmpC will not affect your discharge. If you are going to another hospital or nursing home your nurse or doctor will let them know about your positive AmpC result so that they can prevent it spreading to other patients.

What happens when I go home?

There is no need to take special precautions at home. Family and friends who are healthy are less likely to pick up AmpC. Bed linen and personal clothing should be washed and changed as normal. It is always very important to wash your hands carefully after using the toilet and before preparing meals or eating in order to stop infections spreading to other people. Clean hands protect you and others from lots of infections, not just AmpC.

How can AmpC be prevented from spreading in the hospital?

The Infection Prevention and Control Nurse will notify the ward manager or nurse in charge if AmpC has been detected in your sample tested by the laboratory.

Depending on where the bacteria are located on your body or if you have diarrhoea you may be cared for in a single room with your own toilet or commode. These bacteria do not cause diarrhoea but because they live in the bowel, they may be spread more easily if you have diarrhoea.

Healthcare workers looking after you will be wearing aprons/long sleeved gowns and gloves. Afterwards they will remove these items and clean their hands. All staff must clean their hands before and after any contact with every patient, regardless of whether or not they have AmpC.

Antibiotics should not be used unless necessary.