

Consent to Nasal Testing and Decolonization for MRSA and MSSA
Prior to Spinal Cord Stimulation Trial and Implant

Staphylococcus aureus (or *Staph aureus*) is a type of bacteria commonly found on the skin and hair as well as in the nose and throat. These bacteria live on our skin and usually do not cause issues unless there is a break in the skin. This bacteria is commonly responsible for post-surgical infections. When it can be treated with normal antibiotics it is called MSSA (Methicillin Sensitive Staph Aureus).

What is MRSA?

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a bacterium that causes infections in different parts of the body. It's tougher to treat than most strains of *staphylococcus aureus* – or staph -- because it's resistant to most commonly used antibiotics.

What can we do to reduce infection risk?

My physician has explained to me that testing for MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus) and MSSA (Methicillin Sensitive Staph Aureus) and specific ways to sanitize are recommended for the discussed treatments for my pain. Being a carrier of these germs would change my treatment plan as I would need to be treated with different antibiotics and take special pre-procedural precautions.

By signing below, I agree to:

1. Nasal swab testing in the office today for MRSA and MSSA. I understand that the risks of this test include: irritation of the nasal mucosa, bleeding and possibly pain.

Based on the *The Neurostimulation Appropriateness Consensus Committee (NACC) Recommendations for Infection Prevention and Management treatments guidelines*: I agree to follow to the decolonization protocol that will be outlined by my physician depending on today's lab results.

- a. If I test positive for MRSA or MSSA, I agree to shower with chlorhexidine wash daily (Hibiclens) for 5 days prior to my scheduled spinal cord stimulation trial/implant.
 - b. If I test positive for MRSA or MSSA, I agree to apply mupirocin ointment to my nostrils twice daily for 5 days prior to my scheduled spinal cord stimulation trial/implant.
2. Follow the antibiotic regimen outlined by my physician before the spinal cord stimulator trial/implant and take what is prescribed as directed by my doctor.

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Pg 2

- A 32 oz bottle of Hibiclens can be purchased for less than 20 dollars at your local pharmacy. You can ask your physician if they have this available in the office for your use.

- Your doctor will prescribe Mupirocin(Bactroban) which you will apply to both nostrils twice a day for 5 days. The supplemental instruction sheet will show you how to apply the ointment.

If your test is positive for MRSA or MSSA then this process needs to be repeated prior to both the trial and the potential implantation of your device. It is recommended that if you are to require surgery in the future, you will notify your physician that you have tested positive for these skin bacteria in the past.

Thank you for your participation in your own care, medical evidence shows that using these precautions leads to fewer infections and better outcomes for all patients.

Patient Signature

Date of Birth

Witness to Signature

Today's Date

I verify that I have explained the information contained in this document to the patient or person giving consent. It is my opinion that the person granting consent has fully understood all subjects discussed.

Physician Signature

Today's Date