Statement of Declaration on MRSA Screening
For all Emergency, Day Case and Electively Admitted Patients

December 2010

Introduction
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust take its responsibility for the prevention and management of infection very seriously, being committed to the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections. Our aim is to ensure that patients, their families and the broader communities we serve feel reassured by the positive steps we have taken in providing clean, safe care to all patients.

We have a comprehensive infection prevention and control programme that is aimed at reducing infections and securing patient safety. As part of these measures we have implemented a revised Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening policy in line with recent Department of Health guidance.

Process
At Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, all patients who are admitted will be screened for MRSA from December 2010. Those patients admitted for elective (planned) procedures will be screened for MRSA prior to admission as per existing policy. Those admitted as an emergency (unplanned) will be routinely screened when admitted through the following departments: the Emergency Department, Acute Admissions Unit (AAU), Outpatient Department, Kobler, Thomas Macaulay Ward and Medical Day Unit (MDU). This is in line with the Operational Framework published by the Department of Health (DH) on 15 December 2010 to ensure a robust MRSA screening programme for both planned and emergency admissions.

The Trust MRSA screening policy, which is ratified by the Infection Prevention and Control Committee, reflects this guidance and is available to staff and patients on the Trust’s external website and internal staff intranet.

Compliance
The Department of Health (DH) requires assurance from trusts that MRSA screening is taking place in line with guidance and the provision of evidence of this. Systems and processes are in place for monitoring compliance with the Trust’s MRSA screening programme and for providing assurance that these arrangements are effective. The hospital Infection Prevention and Control Committee monitors compliance on a monthly basis and actions are taken to follow up any incident of non-compliance with the MRSA screening procedure.

Screening compliance is reported monthly to the Trust Board by the Director of Infection Prevention and Control.

Further Information
The Trust policy for MRSA screening is publicly available on our website.

If you have any questions about our MRSA screening policy or about wider arrangements in the Trust for the prevention and management of infection, please ask the doctor or nurse providing your care.

We can confirm that screening of all patients admitted to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is compliant with Department of Health guidance.