

# Bactroban Ointment

## How does it work?

Bactroban nasal ointment contains the active ingredient mupirocin, which is an antibacterial medicine. It is used to eliminate staphylococcal bacteria from the nasal passages. In particular, it is usually reserved for eradicating methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteria from the nasal passages of hospital inpatients.

Certain bacteria, including MRSA, are found naturally on many people's skin and inside their nose. These bacteria are usually harmless and don't cause any problems. However, they can cause infection if they get into a wound or spread to other parts of the body. In a hospital environment it is important that these types of bacteria are eliminated, because they can not only cause infections in the carrier, but can also be spread to other people and potentially cause serious infections in people who are sick and vulnerable.

Bactroban nasal ointment is applied inside the nose for this purpose.

The mupirocin works by affecting the bacteria's production of certain proteins that are necessary for their survival. It causes the bacteria to produce abnormal and faulty proteins. This ultimately kills the bacteria.

## What is it used for?

- Eradicating staphylococcal bacteria, in particular MRSA
- Use this medication only as directed by your healthcare provider. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with the eyes. The medication should be stopped and your healthcare practitioner contacted if irritation, severe itching, or rash occurs.

### 1. Steps

- Wash your hands with warm water and soap, then dry them completely before applying Bactroban.
- Apply a small amount of Bactroban ointment as directed by your doctor/ PAC Nurse
- Use the ointment for the full period ordered by your doctor
- Look for these side effects as you treat your skin infection: skin dryness, irritation, itching, redness or unusual blistering. Stop using the ointment and visit your doctor so he or she can evaluate your reactions to the medication.
- Call your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following serious side effects: difficulty breathing, hives, wheezing, an unexplainable rash, itching or swelling of the mouth or throat.

## Please contact the Kingsway Day Surgery if you have any concerns

### Kingsway Day Surgery

Level 1, 533 The Kingsway

Miranda 2228

ph: 02 9717 0700 – fax: 02 9717 0703

[www.kingswaydaysurgery.com.au](http://www.kingswaydaysurgery.com.au)