

## **Penicillin-nonsusceptible pneumococcus, PNSP (pneumococcus with reduced sensitivity to penicillin), patient information**

### **Why have I received this information?**

Tests have shown that you have a bacterium, PNSP, that is resistant to penicillin. In this information sheet you can find out more about what PNSP entails and what to do to avoid infecting others.

### **What is pneumococcus and what is PNSP?**

Pneumococcus is one of the most common bacteria in the respiratory tract and is often found in the noses of young children without causing disease. This is called being a carrier. Sometimes, pneumococcus can cause infections, such as ear infections or pneumonia, which in rare cases can develop into severe infections. PNSP is a pneumococcus that has become resistant to penicillin. Infections caused by PNSP require the use of antibiotics other than regular penicillin. PNSP does not cause more or more serious infections than regular pneumococci.

### **How is PNSP transmitted?**

PNSP is mainly transmitted by droplets, i.e. by coughing, sneezing and through saliva. Young children often have pneumococci in their noses and the risk of infection is greatest in preschools, where many young children are in close proximity to each other. It is unusual for school children and adults to be carriers of pneumococci. If an adult or school child is a carrier, the risk of passing on the infection is very low.

### **Can I get rid of the PNSP?**

If you are a carrier of PNSP and you do not have any symptoms, the bacteria disappear on their own after a short time. The older you are, the less time you are a carrier. Adults are usually carriers for a couple of weeks while young children are usually carriers for 4-6 weeks, sometimes longer.

### **What should I keep in mind so as not to infect others?**

You should stay home from school, work and leisure activities until you have recovered. For children in preschool, the child should be free of fever and able to participate in the normal preschool activities.

### **Rules of conduct**

PNSP is classified as a disease that represents a danger to public health in the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act. You must therefore follow certain rules given to you by your doctor, known as the 'rules of conduct':

- If your doctor tells you to go for check-ups, you are obliged to keep in touch with your doctor and provide the necessary samples.

### **About the infection prevention sheet**

The infection prevention sheet was produced by the Swedish Association of County Medical Officers and is valid nationally.