NARES CULTURE FOR MRSA SCREENING

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Active Surveillance Testing (AST) to detect newly admitted patients who are nasally colonized with MRSA is required in 2009 to comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 1255.8, 1288.55

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II. PURPOSE

The purpose is to establish a procedure for obtaining an anterior nares specimen for MRSA screening.

III. SUPPLIES

1. For children, adolescents and adults: BD BBL CultureSwab Cat# 220109.



2, For infants:

MINI TIP LQ STUART









Suitable for ear, nose, throat, eye and male urethral swab sampling. The narrow dimension of the swab shafts and small tip provides a more practical device for some pediatric swab sampling.



143C Regular aluminum wire - orange cap 50 swabs / box
Firm wire ideal design for male urethral 10 x 50 swabs / case sampling.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Both nostrils will be sampled with a paired sterile culture swab, using the following procedure to collect the swab:

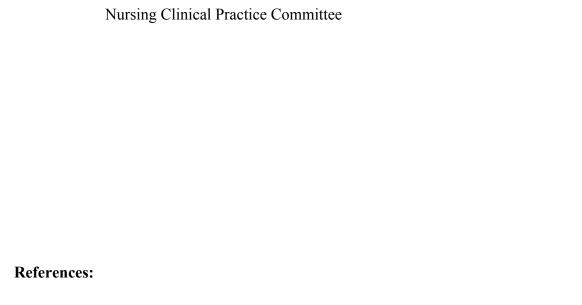
- 1. Open the double-swab collection device by peeling back the outer packaging.
- 2. Remove the plastic transport tube. Twist off the tube cap and discard it. Note: the swabs should stay attached to the red cap at all times.
- 3. For patients <12 years of age, remove and discard one swab. For all others, use the double-swab. In all cases, collect the specimen from both nostrils using one or two swabs, depending on the age of the patient.
- 4. Assist the patient or ask him/her to tilt head back.
- 5. Moisten the swab tip with two drops of non-bacteriostatic sterile saline. NOTE: Do not use Stuart's transport medium it is very irritating.
- 6. Insert swab tip into each nostril. Note: Insert only the white Dacron tip into the nostril and not any further in.
- 7. Rotate the swab against the inside of each nostril for 3 seconds slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose helps to assure good contact between the swab and the

inside of the nose.

- 8. Using the same swab, repeat for second nostril, trying not to touch anything but the inside of the nose.
- 9. Return swab to the plastic transport tube and make sure the red cap is on tight.
- 10. Label the plastic transport tube with appropriate patient identifiers and ROMRS (rule out MRSA).
- 11. Transport labeled nares swab at ambient temperature to the microbiology laboratory (specimen processing area) in the plastic transport bag provided.

I. <u>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</u>

- A. Legal Authority/References
 - 1. Health and Safety Code Section 1255.8, 1288.55
- B. Author/Original Date Kathy Mathews RN, CIC, Infection Control, 02/2009
- C. Gatekeeper of Original Document
 Administrative Manual Coordinators and Editors and Infection Control
- D. Distribution and Training Requirements
 - 1. This policy resides in the Administrative Manual and Infection Control website.
 - 2. New documents or any revised documents will be distributed to Administrative Manual holders. The department/unit/clinic manager will be responsible for communicating this information to the applicable staff.
- E. Review and Revision History Yvonne Maldonado MD, Kathleen Gutierrez MD, Hayley Gans MD, Kathy Mathews RN, Tracey Stoll RN, Kathleen Carney RN, Integrated ID Committee2/09
- F. Approvals Infection Control Committee, 2/09



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