

MEMO

Laboratory Services
501 Skokie Blvd
Suite B26
Northbrook, IL 60062
847-663-2100

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To: Medical Group Professional Staff
Medical Group Directors, Practice Managers

From: Linda Sabatini, Ph.D., HCLD, CC
Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
Department of Pathology

Subject: M-Swab for Pre-surgical Staph PCR testing

On **July 10, 2017** the NorthShore University HealthSystem will be changing the collection swabs and media that are used for **pre-surgical Staph testing**.

The new collection kit devices have a light blue capped tube containing liquid transport media, and a flocked swab which has been demonstrated to be superior for microorganism recovery compared to the swabs currently used (threads wound around center shaft).

We expect that transitioning to the new swabs will allow greater efficiency in the Laboratory, improve turn-around time and improve the quality of specimens submitted to the Laboratory.

The new devices are compatible with the recently installed automated system in the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.

The M-swab collection kit is available by calling NorthShore Laboratory Services at 847.663.2100 or through Lawson (Item #2741155).

For questions contact the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at 847.570.2857.

Specimen Collection Chart

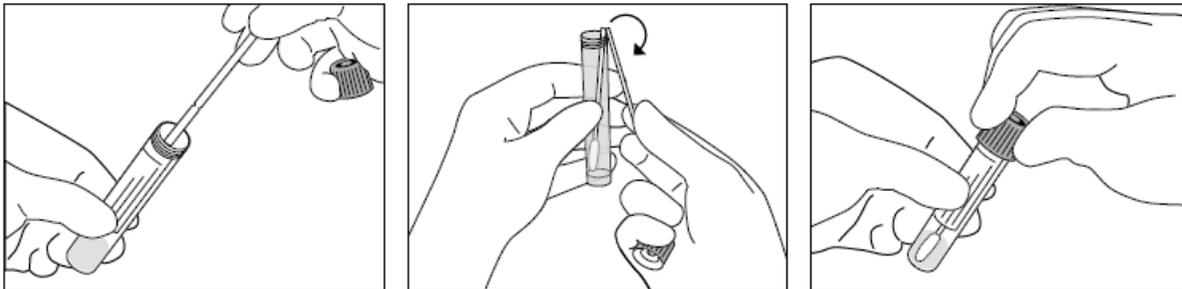
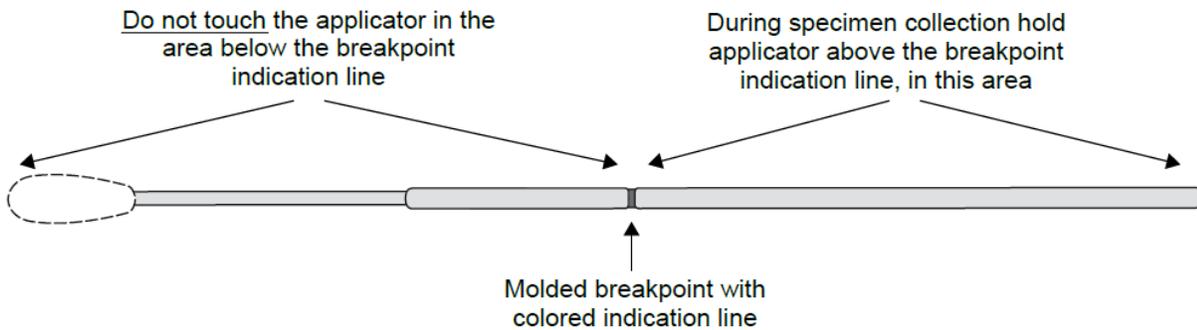
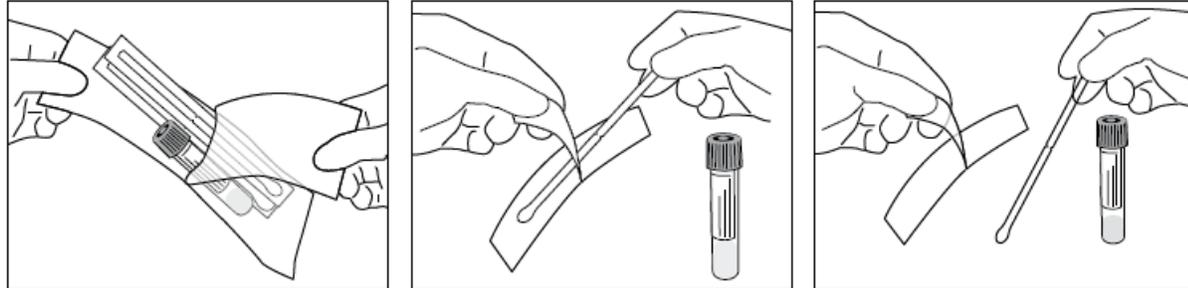
M-Swab

Use M-Swab to collect these specimens/tests	DO NOT use M-Swab for these specimens/tests
Pre-surgical Staph screen	Eye, ear, wound for aerobic culture and/or Gram stain
	Fluid specimens for culture
	Nasal specimens for culture
	Rapid strep test
	Rectal swabs for pre-prostate biopsy culture screen
	Throat specimens for culture
	Vaginal, cervical or urethral discharge specimens for culture and/or Gram stain
	Vaginal/rectal screen for Group B Strep
	Viral PCR tests (influenza, RSV)

M-Swab collection (Light-blue cap)

(Nasal for pre-surgical Staph PCR testing)

Lawson Number 2741155



Carefully insert the swab into the patient's nostril (swab tip should be inserted up to 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the edge of the nares). Roll the swab along the mucosa inside the nostril 3 times. Repeat in second nostril with the same swab.

Replace the swab in its transport tube. Leverage the swab shaft against the edge of the tube to break at pre-scored point. Close the cap firmly while ensuring that the upper end of the swab shaft is in the center of the cap.

Label the sample and transport to laboratory according to standard operating procedures.