

Specimen Testing Options:

- › Nasal samples may be collected for bacterial and MRSA cultures.

Test Names and Test Numbers:

- › MRSA Culture – Test# 1220 - Specify source
- › Nasal Culture – Test# 1063 - Specify suspected organism. If no suspected organism is listed the culture will only be examined for Neisseria meningitidis and Staphylococcus aureus.
- › Admit MRSA by PCR – Test# 1235 - Used for Infection Prevention purposes or within the pneumonia order set.

Specimen:

- › Culture of the anterior or front portion of one or both nostril(s)
- › Order Culture-MRSA, test number 1220 if looking for methicillin-resistant Staph. aureus (MRSA) or if the patient is <2 yrs. old

Unacceptable Specimens:

- › Dry culturette – ampule not crushed
- › Dry swab (swab not sent in transport medium)

Materials Needed:

- › *BBL CultureSwab* (red cap).

Sample Collection Procedure:

- › For all procedures wear appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, mask/eye protection) as per protocol.

Specimen Collection and Transport:

1. To obtain adequate specimen, follow the instructions in this section closely.
2. Remove both swabs for the BBL Red cap dual swab CultureSwab transport container.
3. Seat patient comfortably and ask the patient to tilt his/her head back. Insert both swabs approximately 1-2 cm into the first nostril.
4. Rotate the swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds. Apply slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose to help assure good contact between the swab and the inside of the nose.
5. Using the same swabs, repeat for the second nostril, trying not to touch anything but the inside of the nose.
6. Open the plastic transport tube by twisting off the tube cap and discarding it. Then place both collection swabs into the transport container. The swabs should go all the way into the tube until they rest on top of the sponge at the bottom of the tube. Make sure the red cap is on tightly. Note: Swabs should always stay attached to the red cap.
7. Label the plastic transport tube with patient ID, date/time of collection, and nasal as the source. For Nasal Cultures specify suspected pathogen on both the requisition and the sample, e.g. Looking for Neisseria meningitidis.
8. If the specimens will be processed within 24 hours, transport and store at room temperature. If the specimens will be tested after 24 hours, refrigerate until testing is performed. Specimens stored at 2-8°C are stable for up to 5 days.