

MRSA NASAL SCREEN SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROTOCOL

Collection of an adequate specimen is critical for the detection of MRSA in the nares.

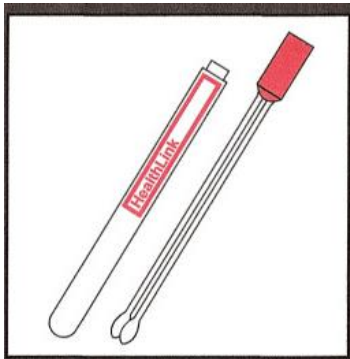
I. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Use a double-swab culturette to collect the specimen
2. Insert the dry swabs together 1-2 cm into the nostril and rotate swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nose.
3. Repeat Step 2 in the second nostril with the same swabs.
4. Place the swabs back into the culturette tube, and label the tube with patient identification.

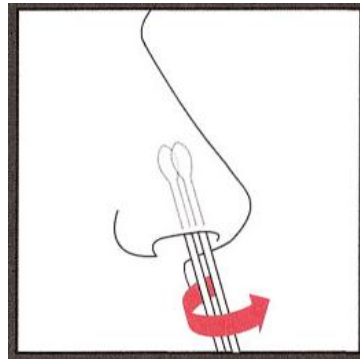
II. TRANSPORT

1. Transport the specimen to the Microbiology lab as soon as possible.
2. Specimens that can be tested within 24 hours can be kept at room temperature.
3. If testing will not be performed within 24 hours, the specimen should be refrigerated at 2-8°C. Specimens stored in the refrigerator are stable for up to 5 days.

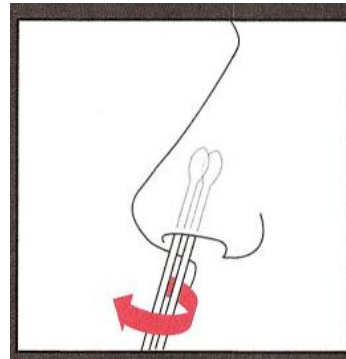
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

