

Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, PCR, Nasal

Test ID: MRSAP

Useful for: Rapid screening test for *Staphylococcus aureus* nasal carriage which, if positive, indicates whether the *S aureus* is methicillin susceptible or resistant

Methods:

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Reference Values:

Negative

Specimen Requirements:

Specimen Type: Nasal Cavity Swab

Supplies: BD E-Swab (T853)

Container/Tube:

Preferred: BD Liquid Amies Elution Swab (E-Swab)

Acceptable: Copan Liquid Amies Elution Swab (ESwab); or Cepheid nasal sample collection device (dual swab in liquid Stuart media) or Copan swab and transport systems (LQ Stuart or LQ Amies) (scored swabs only)

Specimen Volume: Entire collection

Collection Instructions:

1. Ask the patient to blow his/her nose prior to collection.
2. Use one swab for both right and left nares.
3. Insert the white Dacron swab tip (do not insert any further in) into the anterior nares.
4. Rotate the swab for 3 seconds against the nasal mucosa. Apply slight pressure on the outside of the nose with your finger to ensure good contact.
5. Repeat the process on the other nostril.
6. Insert the swab back into the carrier. The swabs should go all the way into the transport container. Tightly cap the container.
7. Label the transport container with patient label and send refrigerate.

Specimen Stability Information:

| Specimen Type | Temperature | Time |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Swab | Refrigerated (preferred) | 5 days |
| | Ambient | 24 hours |

Cautions:

This test should **not be used** to guide or monitor treatment for methicillin-resistant *S aureus* or *S aureus* infections.

Please see our online test catalog for a list of additional cautionary statements.

CPT Code:

87641

Day(s) Performed: Continuously

Report Available: 1 day

Questions

Contact Brandon DeBoom, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.