Attachment 8: Protocol for Obtaining MRSA Surveillance Swabs

**Protocol for Obtaining a Nasal Swab for MRSA Surveillance**

1. Use a routine culturette swab
2. Insert swab ~ 1” into nares, rotate 5 times clockwise, 5 times counter-clockwise, and then remove
3. Using same swab, repeat in other nares
4. Send to lab for Surveillance culture, MRSA

**Protocol for obtaining an Axillae or Perianal Swab for MRSA Surveillance**

1. Use a routine culturette swab
2. Swab the skin in/around the Axillae or Perianal area
3. For axillae; using same swab, repeat in other axillae
4. Send to lab for Surveillance culture, MRSA

**Protocol for Obtaining a Wound Swab for MRSA Surveillance**

1. Use a routine culturette swab
2. Remove dressing
3. Irrigate wound with sterile normal saline to remove any exudate, absorb excess normal saline with sterile gauze
4. Swab 1 square cm of viable tissue for 5 seconds using mild pressure to produce exudate
5. For a dry wound bed, pre-moisten the culturette swab with sterile normal saline and then obtain culture
6. Send to lab for Surveillance culture, MRSA