

Isolation Precautions

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