



DATE: August 31, 2015

TO: Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare Clients

SUBJECT: MRSA Collection Swab and Process Update

Effective September 1, 2015, Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare will begin utilizing a new swab and collection process for MRSA testing. The new swab is a red capped double swab with Liquid Stuarts Media. Please ensure that you select the appropriate swab as there are two types of red capped double swabs one with Liquid Stuarts Media and another with no media.

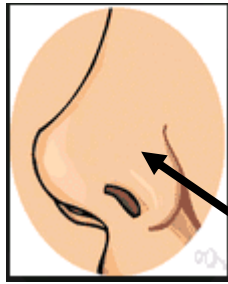


Picture A (above): **New swab**-media present at bottom



Picture B (above): **DO NOT** use this swab with no media at bottom

1. The collection process will involve inserting **2 swabs** into the patient's nostrils. The process is listed below:
 - a) Patient must blow nose thoroughly prior to collection.
 - b) Please ensure you have used your patient identifiers and labeled the specimen prior to sending to Laboratory.
 - c) Insert the 2 dry swabs 1-2 cm into the nostril and rotate swabs against the inside of the nostril and rotate a total of 5 times (3 seconds) while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nose.



Please insert the dry swab and rotate the swab in a circular motion for a total of 5 times (3 seconds) and repeat in the 2nd nostril using the same swab.

- d) Repeat the above step in the second nostril using the same 2 swabs.
- e) Place the swabs back into the tube.
- f) If you are swabbing another area of the body (axilla, groin, umbilicus, rectum), please use a **SEPARATE** swab. Please **DO NOT** use the same swab for different regions of the body.
- g) Please do not use the swab pictured below. If you have any of the swabs pictured below these should be returned to EMH Client Services. Utilization of the old swab and collection process may require you to recollect the specimen with the red top double swab with Liquid Stuarts Media and new collection process for the most accurate results.



If you have any questions regarding this new process or need to order red capped double swabs with Liquid Stuarts Media please contact Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare Client Services at 331-221-4422.