

MRSA Screening Swabs

South Tees Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust

18 step guide for taking MRSA screening swabs using the Pink eSwab 490CE.A

1

Only to be used by staff trained to take samples.

Collect equipment:

- Pink eSwab 490CE.A,
- Non sterile examination gloves and apron.

2



Check all items to be used are within expiry date. NB. Expiry date also present on packaging.

3



Explain the procedure to the patient and prepare them for sampling.

4



Prior to beginning the procedure wash hands with soap and water or disinfect hands using alcohol hand gel.

5



Perform a risk assessment to decide most appropriate PPE use. Put on non sterile examination gloves to avoid contamination of the swabs with your own skin flora.

6



Ensure swab specimen tube is at the top of the pouch before peeling open packaging. If not push tube to the top of the pouch.

7



Peel or rip open packaging level with the specimen tube as indicated in the picture.

8



Either holding the opened pack between thumb and fingers as indicated in the picture step 7, or remove the tube and place it onto a clean tray / stable surface.

9



Open a separate individually wrapped FLOQSwabs Copan flocced swab.

10



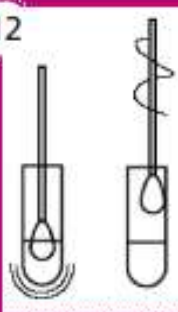
Remove the cap from the specimen tube and place inverted on a clean stable surface/tray. Use the separate single wrapped swab to sample both nares first.

11



Gently insert tip of the single swab into the anterior nares of nose. Rotate ten (10) times against the mucosal surface. Repeat using the same swab for the other nostril.

12



Swirl the swab in the transport liquid (in specimen tube) for 10 seconds and then press against inside of the container. Discard this (nares) swab into clinical waste bin.

13



Take the swab supplied in the Pink eSwab 490CE.A packaging. Stroke the swab in the groin area and rotate ten (10) times.

14



Place this swab in specimen tube and break off the swab into the tube at the red mark on the swab shaft. Only one swab should now be inside the sample tube.

15



Replace the cap on the tube and screw on firmly to avoid leakage of transport liquid inside tube. Ensure only one swab remains inside tube. Separate swab collection kits must be used for additional sites. Wound, catheter site e.t.c.

16



Ensure patient details and swab site are clearly labelled on the specimen tube and match the request form. (It is acceptable to use a small patient ID/ICE label). Unlabelled specimens will not be processed.

17



Select investigation required on ICE requesting for culture or MRSA PCR. NB. MRSA PCR for emergency screening wards only.

18

Once complete send to microbiology. Thank the patient, remove PPE and wash hands. Ensure the MRSA screening is documented in the patient's medical record/notes.