

MRSA Swabs (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

About Your Test

- Your health profession has requested this test to check for the presence MRSA. This is a bacterium (germ) which may be found on the skin.
- You will need to obtain swabs and delivery bags from your health professional or a Canterbury Southern Community Laboratory (CSCL) Collection centre.
- Screening usually requires a swab to be taken from each of the sites specified below:
 1. A single swab used to sample both nostrils
 2. A single swab used to sample both sides of the groin.
 3. A single swab used to sample the natal cleft (at the top of the crack between your buttocks)

In addition

- If you have any breaks on your skin surface, for example, pimples, cuts or scratches, please collect a swab from affected areas.
- For new born babies, a swab should also be taken from the umbilicus (belly button).

Extra swabs will need to be obtained for these sites from your health professional.

Procedure

1. Label each swab with your full name, date of birth, date and time of sample collection, and the site the sample was collected from.
2. Moisten each swab in the transport media (the gel in the bottom of each tube), before inserting in the nostrils or rubbing over the relevant site.
3. Place the swab back into the relevant labelled transport media tube after collecting your sample. Put the swabs in the delivery bag with the request form in the front pocket.
4. Deliver your samples to the laboratory or one of our collection centres as soon as possible following collection.

Result Reporting: Final results take a **minimum** of 3 days from the time swabs are received in the Laboratory.

Reminder: Have you labelled the swabs?

© COPYRIGHT 2020 CHCH

If you require further information regarding your test procedure please telephone
Canterbury SCL on 03 359 0900