

MRSA Swabs – Patient Screening and Previous/Known Positive (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

About Your Test

- Your Doctor has requested tests to check for the presence of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). This is a bacterium (germ), which may be found on the skin.
- Screening usually requires a bacterial swab from the following sites:
 1. Nasal swab (one for both nostrils)
 2. Perineum swab
 3. **In addition** if you have any breaks on your skin surface, for example, pimples, open cuts or scratches please collect a swab from each affected area. For newborn babies a swab should also be taken from the umbilicus (belly button). Additional swabs will need to be obtained for these sites from your medical practitioner.

Procedure

1. Label each swab with your **FULL** name, Date of birth and/or NHI number, the date and time you collected your sample, and the site the sample was collected from.
2. Moisten the swab in the transport media (the gel in the bottom of each 'tube'), before inserting it in the nostrils or rubbing it over the relevant site.
3. After collecting your sample place the swab back into the relevant labelled transport media tube.
4. Please deliver your samples to the laboratory or one of our collection centres soon as possible following collection.

This completes your test.

Result Reporting:

Final results take a **minimum** of three to five days from the time swabs are received in the laboratory.