

## Swabs for MRSA – TIMARU

(Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

### About your Test

- Your health professional has requested tests to check for the presence of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. 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
- 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 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). Additional swabs will need to be obtained for these sites from your health professional.
- Patient referred to another district hospital e.g. Christchurch Hospital contact the laboratory for any special requirements.

### Test 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 your health professional or to Medlab 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 tubes?**

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If you require further information regarding your test procedure please  
telephone Medlab