

Specimen Collection Guidelines - Methicillin Resistant Staph. Aureus (MRSA) Testing

You have been supplied with three swabs, each in a separate pack.

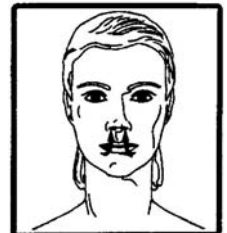
1. Label swab containers with name, date of birth, date and site.
2. Use one swab per site.

The sites tested are:

- a) nostrils – one swab for both nostrils

NOSE

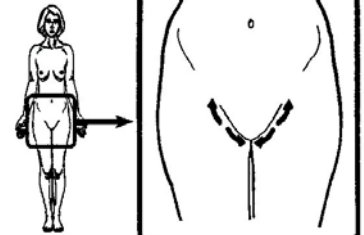
Use **one** swab to sample from well inside **both** left and right nostrils.



- b) groin – one swab for both sides

GROINS

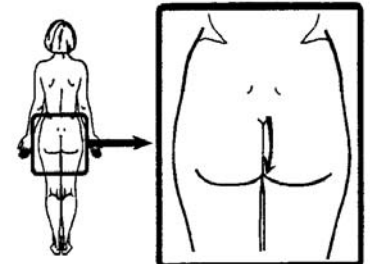
Use **one** swab to rub firmly over **both** left and right groin areas.



- c) perineum or natal cleft

PERINEUM OR NATAL CLEFT

Use **one** swab to rub firmly down the skin fold between the buttock from the tail to the anus including perianal area.



- d) any broken skin, surface wounds or infection.
(an extra swab will be needed)

OTHER INFECTED SKIN AREAS

Use a separate swab to sample any areas of broken skin, sores, wounds or dermatitis.

3. Remove swab from container and moisten by dipping into the holder. Rub over indicated area several times to collect skin bacteria.
4. Put swab back into transport container which has been labelled for the appropriate site.
5. Deliver to the laboratory along with the request form.

If you have any problems please contact Canterbury Health Laboratories:

Christchurch:
Ashburton:

cnr Hagley Ave and Tuam St.
Ashburton Hospital, Elizabeth St.

Ph 364 0300
Ph 307 8456