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<b>Section: Respiratory Tract Culture Manual</b>	<b>Subject Title: Nasal Swabs for C&amp;S</b>	
Issued by: <b>LABORATORY MANAGER</b>	Original Date: September 25, 2000	
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## NASAL SWABS FOR Culture and Sensitivities

### **I. Introduction**

These specimens are submitted to identify nasal carriers of *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Neisseria meningitidis* will be screened for only if requested.

### **II. Specimen Collection and Transport**

See [Pre-analytical Procedure - Specimen Collection QPCMI02001](#)

### **III. Reagents / Material / Media**

See [Analytical Process - Bacteriology Reagents\\_Materials\\_Media List QPCMI10001](#)

### **IV. Procedure**

#### A. Processing of Specimens:

See [Specimen Processing Procedure QPCMI06003](#)

- a) Direct Examination: Not indicated.
- b) Culture:

<b>Media</b>	<b>Incubation</b>
Colistin-Nalidixic Agar (CNA)	CO <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 48 hours
If <i>N. meningitidis</i> is requested, <b>add</b> :	
Martin-Lewis Agar (ML)	CO <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 72 hours

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B. Interpretation of cultures:

1. Examine the CNA plate after 24 and 48 hours incubation and the ML plate after 48 and 72 hours incubation.
2. Identify *S. aureus*. Identify *N. meningitidis* if requested.

C. Susceptibility testing:

Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual.

**V. Reporting**

Negative report: “No *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated”  
“No *Neisseria meningitidis* isolated”, if *N. meningitidis* is requested.

Positive report: “*Staphylococcus aureus*” with appropriate sensitivities.  
“Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*” with appropriate sensitivities.  
“*Neisseria meningitidis*”

Telephone all positive MRSA and *Neisseria meningitidis* results to ward/ordering physician and Infection Control Practitioner as per [Isolate Notification and Freezing Table QPCMI15003](#).

**VI. References**

P.R. Murray, E.J. Baron, M.A. Pfaller, R.H. Tenover, R.M. Tenover. 2003. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.

H.D. Izenberg. 2003. Nasal Sinus Cultures, 3.11.9.1 in Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol.1 ASM Press, Washington, D.C.