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Section: <b>Respiratory Tract Culture Manual</b>	Subject Title: <b>Nasal Swabs for Methicillin Resistant <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA)</b>	
Issued by: <b>LABORATORY MANAGER</b>	Original Date: September 25, 2000	
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**NASAL SWABS FOR METHICILLIN RESISTANT *S. aureus* (MRSA)**

**I. Introduction**

These specimens are submitted to identify nasal carriers of **Methicillin Resistant *S. aureus*** (MRSA).

**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>
Mannitol Salt Agar with Oxacillin (MSAOX)	O <sub>2</sub> , 35°Cx 48 hours

B. Interpretation of cultures:

1. Examine the MSAOX after 24 and 48 hours incubation.
2. Sub-culture yellow colonies of each phenotypic type from the MSAOX plate to BA prior to identification.

**NB:** Erroneous slide agglutination results may occur if using colonies directly from the MSAOX plate.

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C. Susceptibility testing:

Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual.

**V. Reporting**

Negative report: “No Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated”

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

Notify the Infection Control Practitioner of all **new** MRSA isolates and telephone all positive MRSA results to ward / ordering physician 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.