Microbiology User Information: Screening swabs-MRSA, CRE, VRE/GRE

Specimen Types:

Swabs:

- MRSA as per infection control policy: Nose. Groin and any wounds
- VRE/GRE and CRE screening: rectal specimens (swabs with visible faecal material or discoloration) are the most sensitive for detecting CPE colonisation or a faecal specimen.

Indications for Swab Samples:

Primary Care antimicrobial guidelines: : Primary Care Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines

For use within Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust only:

Hospital antimicrobial guidelines for MRSA Eradication: MRSA Eradication (formularywkccgmtw.co.uk)

MTW Trust Infection Control handbook is available on the MTW intranet site

Control and management of MRSA including screening and de-colonisation

Request form requirements:

Providing adequate clinical details to microbiology request forms is vital for the safety of laboratory staff and ensuring patient tests are correctly interpreted.

Please include details of relevant clinical information, current, just finished or intended antibiotic therapy. Please state if yeast infection is suspected.

Time to laboratory:

Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible

Transport swabs are stable at room temperature for 24 hours but refrigerate samples where possible

If processing is delayed, store refrigerated, rather than at room temperature

For information on transport, including days and times, please see Pathology Transport Services

Laboratory Testing:

All Microbiology laboratory investigations are based on UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations which can be found <u>HERE</u>. If further advice is required, please contact the laboratory

Laboratory Turn Around Time (from Date/Time of Receipt in Laboratory):

MRSA screening- 2 days CRE screening- 2 days GRE screening- 4 days

Time limit for requesting additional investigations:

7 days

Requests for extra tests must be received within the sample storage period and must be accompanied by a request form. Please telephone the laboratory before requesting extra tests to ensure the sample is available and still viable

Adverse factors affecting the interpretation of microscopy and culture results:

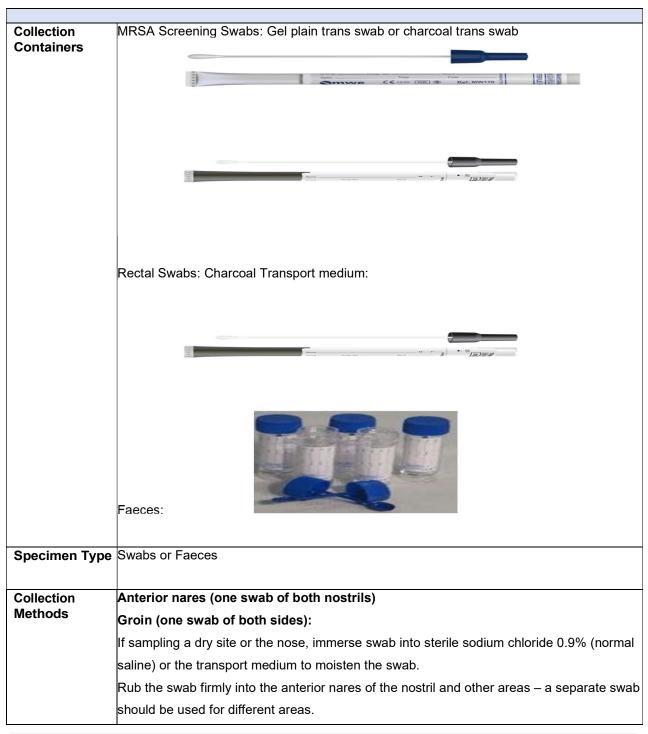
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- Delays in processing may result in degradation of microorganism which generates results that do not reflect the true clinical situation
- Excessive temperature

Note: rapid transport to the laboratory is the best way to minimise uncertainty of results

Specimen Collection:



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Pathology Microbiology	RWF-MIC-LI754 Revision 1.0	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Place the sw	abs in the transport medium	
Correctly lab	el swab and request form with patient's re	levant clinical details and write
MRSA scree	n on request form	
Rectal Swak	os: Swabs must have visible faecal materia	al

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