

MRSA Culture Test Instructions

This leaflet gives you information on how to take a culture swab to see if you are carrying the MRSA bacteria. Please note that your situation may differ from the one described in this leaflet.

You have received several items to take the culture swab. Please read the step-by-step instructions completely before you start.

Important

In the following cases, cultures may not be useful. Contact the Infection Prevention Department if you:

- have a wound
- have skin disorders (e.g. eczema)
- have a bladder catheter
- are coughing up phlegm (sputum)
- are on or have taken antibiotics in the last 48 hours.

MRSA

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a bacterium that is insensitive (resistant) to many types of antibiotics and, therefore, difficult to treat. MRSA can mainly cause infections in patients with reduced immunity.

Culture swab

The essentials

1. Three sterile containers with a swab and a tube (image 1)
2. Stickers with your patient details, including: 'throat', 'nose' and 'perineum'.
3. MRSA application form from MMI (image 2)
4. Safety bag with white absorbent pad (image 3)
5. Return envelope (image 4)



Image 1

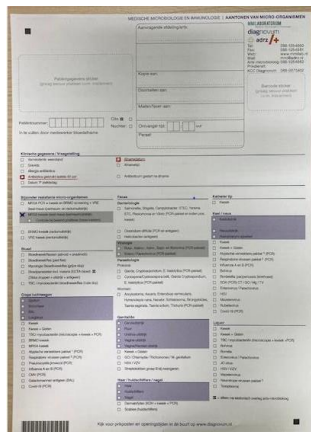


Image 2

MRSA Culture Test Instructions



Image 3

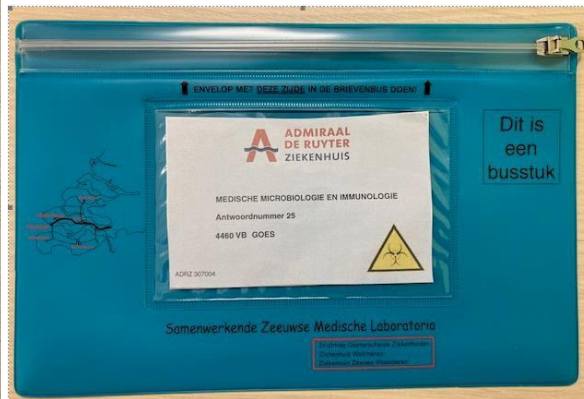


Image 4

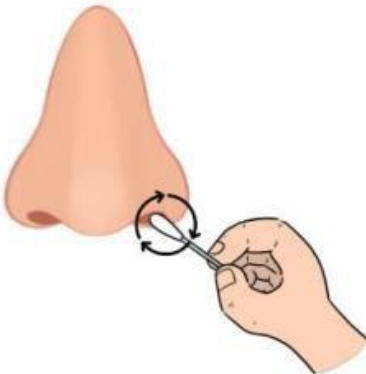
Steps

Nose culture swab

1. Fill in the dates of collection on the MRSA MMI application form.
2. The test system contains a tube with fluid and a swab.
3. Open the sterile package at the top.

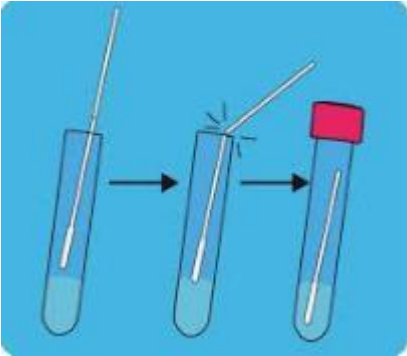


4. Take a nasal culture swab: insert the cotton swab into the nose and stroke several times along the nostril and into the tip of the nose.



5. Repeat this in the other nostril using the same swab.
6. Remove the pink cap from the tube containing the fluid, making sure the fluid does not spill.

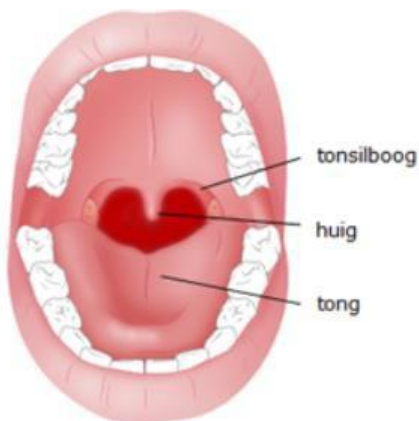
- Put the cotton swab into the liquid and break off the swab at the indicated line:



- Screw the pink cap back onto the tube, wedging the cotton swab in the tube.
- Check that the cap is screwed tight and does not leak.
- Stick the patient sticker with your details and the inscription 'nose' onto the tube.

Throat culture swab

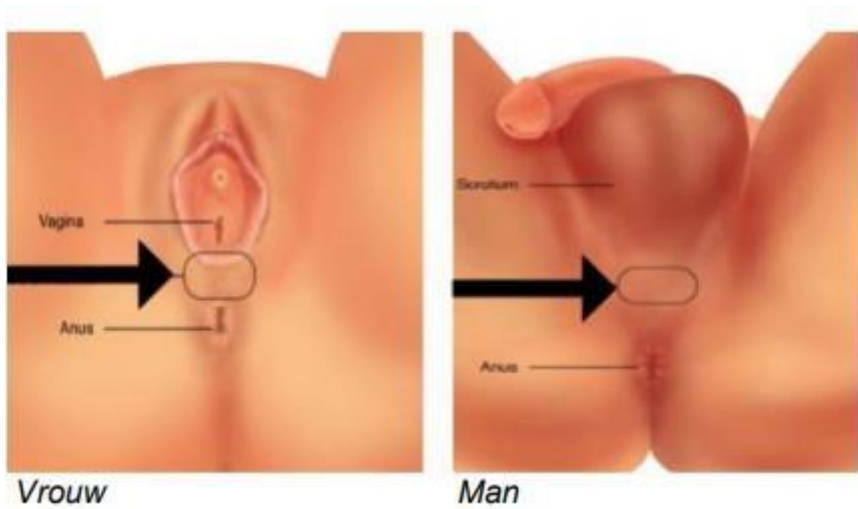
- Open a new cotton swab and use it to stroke back and forth along the left and right tonsil arches.



- Remove the pink cap from the tube containing the fluid, making sure the fluid does not spill.
- Put the cotton swab into the liquid and break off the swab at the indicated line.
- Stick the patient sticker with your details and the inscription 'throat' onto the tube.

Perineal culture swab

- Open a new cotton swab and use it to stroke the skin between the anus (the poop hole) and the external genitals in a circular motion.



2. Remove the pink cap from the tube containing the fluid, making sure the fluid does not spill.
3. Put the cotton swab into the liquid and break off the swab at the indicated line.
4. Stick the patient sticker with your details and the inscription 'perineum' onto the tube.

Packaging

Wrap the three tubes with the cotton swabs in the white absorbent pad, then put them into the plastic bag provided (safety bag, see image 4, 'essentials').

Return

The fastest method is to drop off the return envelope at the Blood Collection Department at any Adrz site. You can also post the return envelope; a stamp is not required.

Results

The results of the test will take at least three working days. The specialist who requested the test will receive the results and will only contact you if the results give a reason to do so (if you are found to have MRSA).

Questions?

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, please contact the Infection Prevention Department at +31 88 125 44 50.