



MRSA Screening Technique Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-IC-0030

Version Nos:
5

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the technique for screening for MRSA by West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) staff members.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated this Procedure:

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control is required to:

- oversee all aspects of this Procedure
- monitor the performance of WCDHB staff members in relation to this Procedure;

Staff Members are required to:

- ensure they abide by the requirements of this Procedure;
- abide by all WCDHB Infection Control Policy and Procedures;
- abide by all WCDHB Health and Safety Policy and Procedure.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Soap and water or alcohol hand-gel
- ii) Swabs
- iii) WCDHB Laboratory Request Form

6. Process

- 1.00 Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol hand-gel.
- 1.01 Moisten swabs with transport media from tube prior to swabbing.
- 1.02 Rub swab over area several times, rolling the swab to ensure maximum collection. Areas to be swabbed include:
 - i) Nose
 - ii) Groin
 - iii) Nasal Cleft/Perineum
 - iv) Any wounds or weeping dermatitis
 - v) Contact lenses
 - vi) Any piercings
- 1.03 Areas to be swabbed:
 - i) Nasal – one swab, both anterior nares.
 - ii) Nasal Cleft/Perineal – one swab.
 - iii) Groins – one swab.
 - iv) Urine – if patient has indwelling catheter, collect a clean sample or an MSU



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- v) Wounds or dermatitis – must be swabbed.
 - vi) Sputum – if patient has a respiratory tract infection.
 - vii) Entrance site – of any percutaneous devices.
- 1.04 Place swabs in transport tube, secure lid.
 - 1.05 Clearly and correctly label specimens.
 - 1.06 Wash hands.
 - 1.07 Complete WCDHB Laboratory Request Form requesting MRSA screening. Ensure correct details on form and include any relevant clinical details.
 - 1.08 Place specimens in pathology bag and laboratory form into side pocket.
 - 1.09 Forward to laboratory.
 - 1.10 Remove all sterile products from the area to be cleaned, place on a trolley (never on the floor).
 - 1.11 Screening process requires **2-3 days** for a definitive result.
 - 1.12 Any interim antibiotic therapy will require consultation with the Clinical Microbiologist or an Infectious Diseases Physician.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol hand-gel before swabbing
- ➔ Rub swab over area several times, rolling the swab to ensure maximum collection.
- ➔ Clearly and correctly label specimens.

8. References

New Zealand Standard – Infection Control (NZS 8142:2000)

Ministry of Health Guidelines For The Control Of Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus In New Zealand (August 2002)

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Infection Control Procedure Manual

WCDHB Health and Safety Policy and Procedure Manual

WCDHB Accident/Incident Form

Revision History	Version:	5
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	Authorised By:	General Manager - Operations
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