



TEST UPDATE: MRSA Screen by DNA Amplification **Effective: September 2008**

Related Information

- [MRSA Screen](#)

CPT

87798 (amplified probe)

Synonyms

MRSA, PCR

Test Includes

Screening assay for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* using real time PCR. For additional pathogens consider other appropriate culture or tests.

Laboratory

Microbiology

Availability

Mon-Fri

Turnaround Time

24 hours

Specimen

Nares, left or right; nostrils, left or right

Container



Liquid Stuarts swab transport

Collection

Nares: Insert sterile swab (premoistened with sterile saline) into the nose until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (approximately 1 inch into nose). Rotate swab against the nasal mucosa.

Sampling Time

One specimen per day for up to 3 days

Storage Instructions

Transport within 24 hours at room temperature. If transport is delayed, refrigerate at 2°C to 8°C.

Methodology

Real time PCR

Reference Range

No methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* detected by DNA amplification

Causes for Rejection

General rejection criteria