



Swabs for MRSA -

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

About your Test

- Your Doctor has requested tests to check for the presence of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). This is a bacterium (germ), which may be found on the skin.
- Screening usually requires 2 swabs to be taken from the sites specified below.
 1. A single swab used to sample both nostrils.
 2. A single swab used to sample the perineum (area of skin between the vulva – females, or scrotum - males, and the anus).
- **In addition** if you have any breaks on your skin surface, for example, pimples, open cuts or scratches please collect a swab from each affected area. For newborn babies a swab should also be taken from the umbilicus (belly button). Additional swabs will need to be obtained for these sites from your medical practitioner.

The Procedure

1. Label each swab with your name, the date and time you collected your sample, and the site the sample was collected from.
2. Moisten each swab in the transport media (the gel in the bottom of each 'tube'), before inserting it in the nostrils or rubbing it over the relevant site.
3. After collecting your sample place the swab back into the relevant labelled transport media tube.
4. Please deliver your samples to your Medical Practice or to Southern Community Laboratories as soon as possible following collection.

This completes your test.

Result Reporting:

Final results take a **minimum** of three to five days from the time swabs are received in the laboratory.