



Nose Swab

Synonyms

Clinical Indication

To investigate carriage of Lancefield group A streptococcus and Metcillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus; culture for other potential pathogens if indicated by the clinical data given or clearly stated on the request form.

Antral washout, sinus aspirate and sinus washout (ENT samples) are for pathogens and are treated separately

If whooping cough (pertussis) is suspected, per-nasal swabs must be submitted. Special swabs are available from the Microbiology Department on request.

Please give detailed clinical information, including date of onset/contact with the suspected infection, and any current, or intended, antibiotic therapy.

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Microbiology or combined Pathology manual request form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request during normal working hours

Turnaround Time

24 hours for a negative (no pathogens isolated) report; 48 hours if potential pathogens require identification and antibiotic sensitivity testing; 5 days for a per-nasal swab

Patient Preparation

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Bacterial culture swab in transport medium (see also Specific Criteria)

Volume

Container

See above. **Samples should be transported to laboratory on day of collection**

Reference Range & Units

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Interpret any culture results from this non-sterile site with caution.

References

Test code

NOSE

Lab Handling

Samples should be processed as soon as possible