



CLIENT UPDATE

RAPID MRSA TESTING for Inpatients

Salem Health Laboratories is pleased to offer real-time PCR testing for the rapid detection of MRSA nasal colonization. Effective June 24, 2008

The GeneXpert MRSA by Cepheid detects Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from nasal specimens by real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction. Major benefits include:

- Rapid turn around time of approximately 2 hours from the receipt of the specimen in the laboratory.
- Extremely high specificity (~100%) and sensitivity (~94%).

This test is designed for detection of nasal colonization only, and is NOT intended for use from other sources. This assay will not provide susceptibility testing of positive samples.

Please be aware that there are now two tests for the detection of MRSA nasal colonization:

1. Rapid MRSA: requires the red-topped Copan dual swab collection device. These are available from Stores (item number 424114) The Copan swabs are the only ones validated for use with this assay. **THIS ASSAY IS FOR INPATIENTS ONLY**, and will be run as received 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Turn around time is approximately 2 hours from receipt of the specimen in the laboratory.

2. The traditional culture methodology (Surveillance Culture): for outpatients, and wherever rapid results are not required. Positive results are usually available within 24 hours after receipt in the laboratory. A final negative result takes 48 hours. Collection devices for the culture method are the BactiSwab II, available from stores (item number 1772) or your Salem Health Laboratory's Courier.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

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