



**INTEGRATED PATHOLOGY SERVICE
MICROBIOLOGY DOCUMENT
WEST SUSSEX**

Pathology User Manual

Microbiology Investigations

MRSA Screening

[PD-MIC-UMMRSA Screen]

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MRSA Screening

Please refer to the Trust's Infection Control Policy on MRSA.

Indications

To identify MRSA carriage prior to admission for elective procedures or following emergency admission, or as an investigation of extent of colonisation in known MRSA positive patients (as directed by the Infection Control Team).

Please state on the request form if the patient is known to be MRSA positive in the past, whether decolonised or treated and the reason for screening.

Optimal time and Method of collection

Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible.

Acceptable swabs for MRSA screening include those from nose, throat, axillae, groins/perineum, hairline, wounds and other lesions (as directed by the Infection Control Team and transport to the laboratory in sealed plastic bags.

Optimal transport and storage conditions

Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible

Limitations of laboratory examination

- Carriage of MRSA may be transient therefore, screening of an individual at only one point in time may miss the presence of the organism
- Selective chromogenic agar is used to screen for MRSA. It is possible that such media will not support the growth of all circulating strains of MRSA.