

Specimen Collection Guide*

*Use ESwab™ for ALL ARO Screens

Equipment	ESwab™ - Addressograph label - Bacteriology requisition - Specimen bag for transport
Method of Collection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves. 2. Position client on their back or side for VRE Screen and CPO Screen. 3. Remove the white swab from the pouch. Use ONE swab for EACH SCREEN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For MRSA Screen (Nose and groin* swab): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Place the swab into one of the client’s nostrils. Rotate 5 times, pressing lightly against the inside of the nose to collect the nasal sample. Repeat in second nostril with the same swab. ○ Using the same swab, collect sample from each side of the groin Exception: *Axilla swab only if it will be detrimental to a client’s physical or psychological wellbeing to have a groin swab performed • For VRE Screen (Rectal*/Stoma** swab): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gently insert the swab approximately 2 cm beyond the anal sphincter. Rotate swab and withdraw from anus. Exceptions: *Perianal swab for neutropenic clients (see IP&C Policy 40-60: <i>Immune Compromised Clients</i> for definition of neutropenic). For perianal swab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expose perineum and rotate the swab as you run the tip firmly on the surface of the perineum and the anal areas **Stoma opening swab, <u>instead of rectal swab</u>, if client has a colostomy/ileostomy. • For CPO Screen (Rectal*/Stoma** swab): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See instructions for VRE Screen • If “Testing for Clearance” is ordered on the ARO Surveillance Orders Medical Directive (MD-022), also swab all “Other” sites* (i.e. wounds, indwelling devices) previously found positive. <i>If clearing for MRSA, also include swabs of all current “Other” sites, regardless of whether they have been positive. Use a new swab for each “Other” site:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleanse the wound/indwelling device with sterile normal saline from cleanest to dirtiest. Ensure the wound/indwelling device is dry before swabbing. ○ Rotate the swab while moving from one edge of the wound/indwelling device to the other. Ensure the entire wound/indwelling device has been swabbed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ *If a urine culture or blood culture was a positive site, swab for MRSA/VRE as above. 4. Open the ESwab™ tube and place the swab into the liquid. 5. Break the swab shaft off at the pre-molded break point (the indented, pink mark). Leave bottom half of swab applicator in the tube. Dispose of the top of the swab stick in trash can. Recap the ESwab™ tube and turn the cap securely tight. 6. Label tube with client’s identification sticker (ensure there is no overlap) and label with appropriate collection site. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For MRSA Screen: Label as “Nose and groin” • For VRE Screen: Label as “Rectal/Stoma” • For CPO Screen: Label as “Rectal/Stoma” 7. Place labelled tube into a clean bag, ensuring the outside of the bag remains clean. 8. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene. 9. Complete requisition with client’s identification sticker and label with appropriate screen and site swab was collected from. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For MRSA Screen: Label as “Nose and groin swab for MRSA Screen” • For VRE Screen: Label as “Rectal/Stoma swab for VRE Screen” • For CPO Screen: Label as “Rectal/Stoma swab for CPO Screen” 10. Send the bagged specimen with requisition to the lab.