

60-30 Appendix C – Specimen Collection Guide

**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"> <li>1. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves.</li> <li>2. Position client on their back or side for VRE Screen and ESBL Screen.</li> <li>3. Remove the white swab from the pouch. Use <b>ONE swab for EACH SCREEN</b>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For MRSA Screen (Nose <u>and</u> groin* swab):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ <b>Using the same swab</b>, collect sample from each side of the groin</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Exception:</b> *Axilla swab only if it will be detrimental to a client’s physical or psychological wellbeing to have a groin swab performed</li> <li>• <b>For VRE Screen (Rectal*/Stoma** swab):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gently insert the swab approximately 2 cm beyond the anal sphincter. Rotate swab and withdraw from anus.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Exceptions:</b> *Perianal swab for neutropenic clients (see IP&amp;C Policy 40-60: <i>Immune Compromised Clients</i> for definition of neutropenic). <b>For perianal swab:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expose perineum and rotate the swab as you run the tip firmly on the surface of the perineum and the anal areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>**Stoma opening swab, <u>instead of rectal swab</u>, if client has a colostomy/ileostomy.</li> <li>• <b>For ESBL Screen (Rectal*/Stoma** swab):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See instructions for VRE Screen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If <b>“Testing for Clearance”</b> is ordered on the ARO Surveillance Orders Medical Directive (MD-022), <b>also swab all “Other” sites*</b> (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"> <li>○ Cleanse the wound/indwelling device with sterile normal saline from cleanest to dirtiest. Ensure the wound/indwelling device is dry before swabbing.</li> <li>○ 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"> <li>▪ *If a urine culture or blood culture was a positive site, swab for MRSA/VRE/ESBL as above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Open the ESwab™ tube and place the swab <b>into the liquid</b>.</li> <li>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 <b>turn the cap securely tight</b>.</li> <li>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"> <li>• <b>For MRSA Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Nose and groin”</b></li> <li>• <b>For VRE Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Rectal/Stoma”</b></li> <li>• <b>For ESBL Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Rectal/Stoma”</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Place labelled tube into a clean bag, ensuring the outside of the bag remains clean.</li> <li>8. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>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"> <li>• <b>For MRSA Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Nose and groin swab for MRSA Screen”</b></li> <li>• <b>For VRE Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Rectal/Stoma swab for VRE Screen”</b></li> <li>• <b>For ESBL Screen:</b> Label as <b>“Rectal/Stoma swab for ESBL Screen”</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>10. Send the bagged specimen with requisition to the lab.</li> </ol>