

## NASAL SWAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- 1. Do not allow patient to blow nose before specimen collection
- 2. Ask patient to tilt head back slightly and close eyes
- 3. Open kit and remove swab
- 4. Holding the swab by the handle, gently insert swab into patient's nostril
  - a. The entire tip of the swab should be inserted into the nostril
  - b. Once resistance is felt, the Mid-Turbinate area of the nostril has been reached
  - c. Gently rotate the swab 5 times against the nasal wall to collect a sample of the membrane wall
  - d. Remove the swab gently
  - e. Using the same swab immediately follow the same process with the second nostril
- 5. Place swab in the transport container
- 6. Tightly push cap into place on the transport container
- 7. Document the collection date, time and patient initials on specimen label, place it on the specimen container
- 8. Place labeled specimen in a specimen bag and seal it, then roll specimen bag around container
- 9. Place rolled specimen bag in another specimen bag and seal for added security
- 10. Place requisition in the outer specimen bag
- 11. Place sample in refrigerator to stabilize specimen until transport occurs

## NASOPHARYNGEAL (NP) SWAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- 1. Open Kit and remove the smallest swab
- 2. Ask patient to tilt head back slightly and close eyes
- 3. Place swab into nostril
- 4. Gently slide swab along the bottom of the nostril straight back (not up) placing it against the Nasopharyngeal
  - a. Using the red line on the swab as an indicator will assist you in knowing that the correct depth has been reached
  - b. NOTE: The swab should easily be inserted
    - i. **Do Not** attempt to force the swab into the nostril
    - ii. If resistance is felt during insertion, gently try to relocate swab
    - iii. If relocation is unsuccessful remove swab and reinsert the same swab into the other nostril
- 5. To ensure proper positioning, briefly release the swab to make sure there is no spring back of the swab
  - a. If successful, the appropriate positioning has occurred
- 6. Gently rotate the swab 3 or 4 times against the Nasopharyngeal to collect the sample
- 7. Gently remove the swab
  - a. If the Patients eyes water, the Nasopharyngeal has been reached
- 8. Immediately place the swab into the medium in the transport container
  - a. Break the swab off at the red line
  - b. Tightly screw the cap on the transport container
- 9. Document the collection date, time and patient initials on specimen label, place it on the specimen container
- 10. Place labeled specimen in a specimen bag and seal it
- 11. Place requisition in the outer specimen bag
- 12. Place sample in refrigerator to stabilize specimen until transport occurs

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