

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008

**ONLY THE FOLLOWING SPECIMEN TYPES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR
METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA) SCREEN CULTURES:**

**NARES
SUPERFICIAL SKIN**

MRSA Screen cultures should be ordered to determine **colonization** with MRSA only. The only appropriate sites to determine colonization are nares and superficial skin. Other specimen types **will not** be accepted for MRSA Screens.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- ◆ **Nares:** Use a single bacterial culture swab (e.g. Blue-capped gel transport swab, Red-capped liquid transport swab, etc.) to sample **both** nares. Insert the swab into the left nares. Apply slight pressure to the nostril and turn the swab to contact all surfaces. Remove the swab and repeat the process in the right nares.
- ◆ **Superficial skin:** Using a single bacterial culture swab, swab the skin surface, preferably the axilla or groin area.

MRSA INFECTIONS:

- ◆ If **infection** with MRSA is suspected, please request the appropriate culture (Routine Aerobic culture, Aerobic/Anaerobic culture, Respiratory culture, Urine culture, etc). If MRSA is present, it will be reported along with susceptibility testing results if indicated.

For questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Nathan Ledeboer or Kristina Georgakas.