

University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine – Residency Clinics
CLINICAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: NASOPHARYNGEAL (NP Swab) COLLECTION

Effective Date: September 2009

Contact: UWFM Clinical Staff Education

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for collecting a nasopharyngeal culture (NP swab) at UWFM clinics.


DEFINITION: An NP swab may be needed for patients who present with signs or symptoms of an upper respiratory, throat, or sinus infection. A NP collection is often used for Influenza.

NOTE: Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu) is a part of Influenza A and should follow the same specimen collection process.

POLICY: The clinical staff will utilize the following guidelines to properly collect a nasopharyngeal culture on a UWFM patient.

SUPPLIES: Flocked swab or pre-packaged Dacron swab with culture medium, provider's order, patient's record, label, PPE

PROCEDURE:

1. Fill out lab requisition (if done manually) with:
 - Patient's name; date and time of procedure; Name of test; and Source of specimen
OR – if done electronically
 - Indicate requested test, Diagnosis, and if test is needed STAT
2. Check provider's order and clarify any inconsistencies.
3. Wash hands  and gather equipment.
4. Introduce yourself and identify the patient by asking the person to state their name and date of birth.
5. Explain procedure to the patient while making patient comfortable by laying patient down or sitting position with head tilted back.

*Inform patient that NP swab may be uncomfortable and cause eye tearing and coughing.
6. Provide good light and provide privacy by closing curtains or door.
7. For H1N1 (Swine Flu) the Wisconsin Dept of Public Health recommends additional PPE (N-95 mask, gloves, face shield or goggles, disposable gown)
 - All providers/ staff must don the appropriate PPE prior to entering the exam room and keep on for duration of time in the room.

- Order for putting on PPE :
 1. Perform hand hygiene
 2. Gown
 3. N-95 (perform fit check) or PAPR
 4. Face shield
 5. Gloves

8. Insert flocked swab or Dacron swab into nasal passage until slight resistance is met.



9. Gently rotate swab 10- 15 seconds in order to gather adequate epithelial cells from nasopharyngeal passage.
10. Place the swab in the M4 transport medium, cut/ break swab at pre mark indentation.
*Ensure that the cap on the medium is on straight and tight.
11. Label Tube: place an EPIC label on the tube; indicate the time of collection. If an Epic label is not available, label the tube with the patient's name, MRN and DOB and indicate the time of collection.
12. Assist the patient to a comfortable position.
13. Discard other used materials immediately in proper container.
14. Place specimen tube into biohazard bag and close properly; **immediately** take the specimen to the lab or appropriate collection area.
15. Removal of PPE:

- Take off face shield and clean with Sani-Cloth.
- Remove gloves
- Remove gown
- Leave the room with face shield (for reuse).
- After leaving room, perform hand hygiene and remove N-95
****If wearing a PAPR, first remove PAPR, then perform hand hygiene.***

- **NOTE:** Because of face shield protection, the N-95 should be kept for re-use and may be re-used for as long as necessary unless it becomes moist, or falls apart.
- **NOTE:** All disposable PPE may be discarded in regular trash, unless contaminated with blood or body fluids. If so, discard in red biohazard trash.

16. Document in the patient's record:

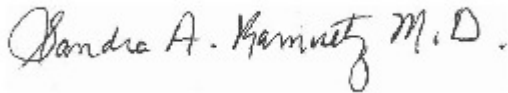
- Date and time of specimen collection
- Name of test and source of specimen
- How the patient tolerated the procedure

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REFERENCES: UConnect- Top of the Mind; H1N1 Influenza A (Swine Flu)

AUTHORIZATION:



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Date