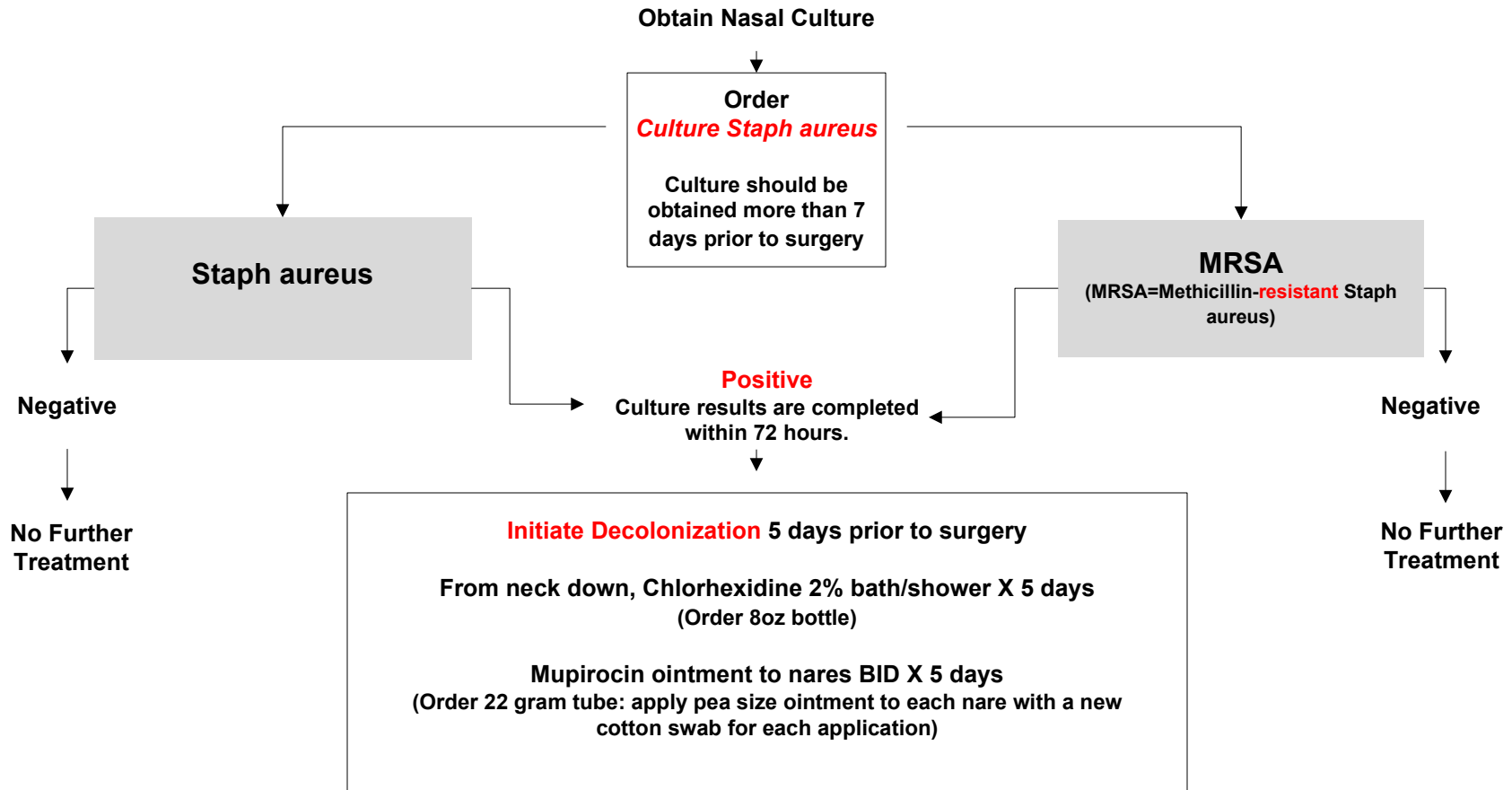


# Pre-Surgical Screening for Staph aureus & MRSA



## FAQs

What if my patient's specimen cannot be collected more than 7 days prior to surgery? **Still collect specimen and submit for Culture Staph aureus testing. Initiate decolonization.**

What if my patient has an allergy to Chlorhexidine? **They may use liquid DIAL soap with triclosan.**

Are there special considerations with a MRSA positive result upon admission? **Yes, patient will be placed in Contact Isolation throughout hospitalization. Vancomycin and Cefazolin or Gentamicin will be used for pre-surgical prophylaxis.**

Can I combine my patient's decolonization schedule with the usual pre-surgical instructions? **Yes! For example: Surgery date is April 16<sup>th</sup>, nasal swab was positive April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Have them follow decolonization schedule with Chlorhexidine and Mupirocin starting on April 11<sup>th</sup> (5 days prior to surgery date).**

Other questions, call Infection Prevention at 935-7432.

# Culture, Staph Aureus (Nasal) Collection Instructions

For detection of both MRSA & MSSA

## Supplies Needed:

- 1 BBL Culture Swab (red cap)
- Personal protective gloves

## Procedure:

1. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves.
2. Open the swab package, and discard white cap from the transport tube. (Fig. 1)
3. Ask the patient to tilt his/her head back. Insert paired swabs approximately 1-2 cm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches) into each nostril. (Fig. 2)  
**NOTE:** The swabs should stay attached to the cap at all times.
4. Rotate the swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds, assuring good contact.
5. Repeat for the second nostril using the same paired swab, trying not to touch anything but the inside of the nose.
6. Place the swabs into the plastic transport tube, without allowing them to contact any other surfaces, until they rest on top of the sponge at the bottom of the tube. Make sure the red cap is seated tightly on the transport tube. (Fig. 3)
7. Label the plastic transport tube with:
  - a. Patient's first and last name (print)
  - b. Second patient identifier (Birthdate or Medical Record Number)
  - c. Source (nares)
  - d. Collect date and time
8. Store and transport swab specimen at room temperature (15-30°C).
9. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Fig. 1

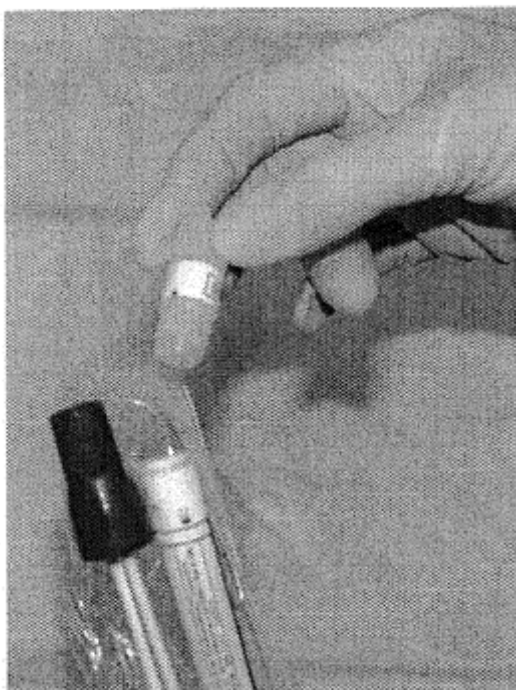


Fig. 2

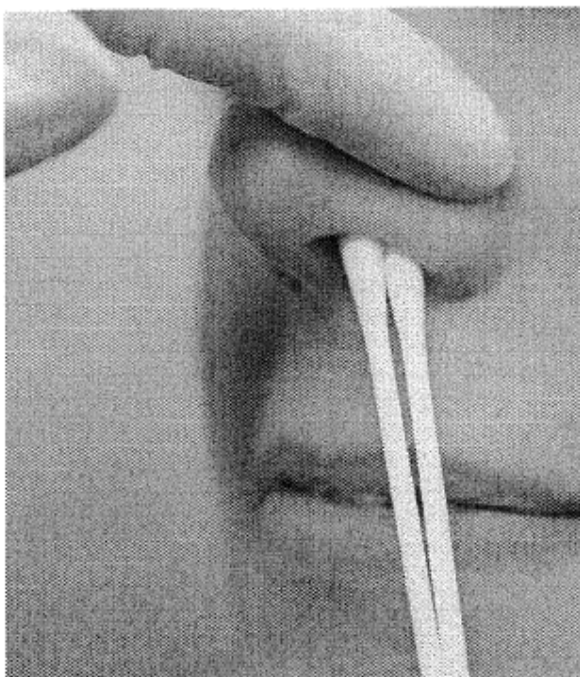


Fig. 3

