

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Effective Date: July 29, 2015

Detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and Resistance to Methicillin by PCR (MRSA and MSSA)

Test name: MRSA/MSSA PCR detection

Explanation: MRSA/MSSA PCR (by BD MAX™) is a newly implemented amplified nucleic acid test that uses PCR for the qualitative detection and identification of Methicillin -resistant and -susceptible strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA and MSSA) from nasal swabs. Additionally to the MRSA result, a result for the presence of MSSA is provided.

This test assures rapid and accurate detection of colonized patients enabling effective strategies that can help reduce the risk of surgical-site infections.

Determining patient colonization with either MRSA or Methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* can assist clinicians to implement appropriate pre-surgical antibiotic regimen and guide appropriate employment of isolation and/or decolonization. This assay replaces the former *MRSA PCR* assay.

Specimen Requirements:

Nasal swabs: A culture swab (BBL or Copan) taken from patient's both nostrils.

Laboratory mnemonic:

MRSA/MSSA PCR: MRSA/MSSA PCR detection

Possible Results:

MRSA detected / NOT Detected

Staph aureus (SA) detected / NOT Detected

Indeterminate (inhibitory)

An indeterminate result is one which cannot be resolved as 'detected' or 'not detected' due to interference or nonspecific signal. In such cases a new sample should be collected and tested if clinically indicated.

Availability/TAT: 24 hours, Mo - Fri

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (516) 719-1100.