

OBSOLETE TEST

NOTIFICATION DATE: November 24, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 21, 2021

MRSA CULTURE

6578/87081.2

QUICK REFERENCE

Effective December 21, 2021, the MRSA culture (5678/87081.2) will become obsolete and will be made not orderable.

DETAILS

Methicillin resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA) infection is associated with health care or community acquired transmission, and is difficult to treat due to resistance to some antibiotics. Prevention of the infection by timely testing and diagnosis is crucial to prevent the spread of MRSA. On December 21st, the Allina Health Central Microbiology Laboratory will discontinue offering MRSA culture (6578/87081.2).

The suggested replacement test is a more rapid and sensitive PCR-based test, MRSA/MSSA PCR, nares (12440/LAB12440). The new PCR-based assay has a much better sensitivity and specificity as well as a faster turn-around time than culture-based testing.

- The new MRSA/MSSA PCR nasal assay has sensitivity and specificity of 92% and 98%, respectively, for MRSA and 93% and 90.5% for *Staphylococcus aureus*.
- Results will be available as two components: MRSA and SA (*Staphylococcus aureus*)

Test information for the MRSA/MSSA PCR,nares assay is available in the new test announcement.

QUESTIONS: Contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative, or our Client Services department