

**MRSA/MSSA PCR, NARES**  
12440/LAB12440

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Effective December 21, 2021, a new test for MRSA will be available; MRSA/MSSA PCR, nares (12440/LAB12440)

**DETAILS**

MRSA infection is associated with health care or community acquired transmission and, due to resistance to some antibiotics, is difficult to treat. Prevention of the infection by timely testing and diagnosis is crucial to prevent the spread of MRSA. On December 21, 2021, Allina Health Laboratory will begin offering a more rapid and sensitive PCR-based test than the current culture options. The new PCR-based assay has a much better sensitivity and specificity and faster turn-around time than culture-based testing.

- MRSA 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*)

**Specimen type:**

Only Nasal/nares samples are acceptable; any other specimen types should be submitted as an aerobic or appropriate culture order.

**When should the MRSA nasal PCR test be ordered?**

To assess for MRSA in patients within particular risk groups:

- Those presenting with pneumonia
- Pre-operative procedures for Joints, cardiovascular, pulmonary, etc., to assess intra-op prophylactic antibiotic choice
- Patients with a history of MRSA

Complete test ordering and sample information will be available in the Allina Health Laboratory Test catalog.

*If you are an interfaced client, and this is a test that you may utilize at your facility, contact your Account representative to obtain build information and to arrange for interface testing.*

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