Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) PCR Nasal Swab Initiative

Background:
- Screening tool for colonization with MRSA and Staphylococcus aureus using PCR assay
- Used as a tool to aid physicians in deciding whether to de-escalate broad spectrum antibiotics to eliminate unnecessary MRSA coverage

Goals for usage at UConn Health:
- Antibiotic Stewardship Program (ASP) to assess the Financial and Clinical effects of de-escalation
- Initiate MRSA PCR Nasal Swabs in the ED in patients with suspected MRSA Pneumonia
- Future implementation of MRSA PCR Nasal Swab into EPIC order sets

How the order appears in LCR (ordered as ONCE):

Considerations for MRSA PCR Swab:
- It is important to promptly collect the nasal swab in order to maximize impact on potential antibiotic de-escalation/discontinuation
- Inclusion for patients only with suspected pneumonia infection
- Exclusion for patients with prior history of MRSA colonization or infection
- Blood, excessive nasal secretions/mucus, decongestants and substances used to relieve nasal dryness or irritation may inhibit PCR and give unresolved results
- Negative results may occur from improper specimen collection, handling and storage, or because the number of organisms in the specimen is below the analytical sensitivity of the test.
- Results should be used as an adjunct to nosocomial infection control efforts to identify MRSA nasal carriers. This test is not intended to identify patients with staphylococcal infection

References: