MRSA Screen (nasal) Culture Collection and Transport

Materials required:
- Aerobic culture swab collection/transport
- Sterile saline (normal saline for inhalation) Make certain that the saline is not bacteriostatic and contains no preservative that might affect the quality of the culture specimen.
- Peel open package
- Pre-moisten both swabs together (2 in each transport) with 3-4 drops of sterile saline. Replace the moistened swabs into the package and proceed to step two immediately.

Collection: (right nares)
- Remove and discard white plug from culture tube.
- Pull one swab from the red cap and insert this premoistened swab about 1 inch into the right nares.
- Rotate the swab against the nasal mucosa.
- Insert this swab into the culture tube.

Repeat collection (left nares)
- Insert the remaining premoistened swab about 1 inch into the left nares.
- Rotate the swab against the nasal mucosa.

Replace swab into aerobic transport.
- Insert the second swab into the culture tube and cap.
- Label specimen in front of patient
- Transport to laboratory at room temperature in clean ziplock bag.