

NICU/NBN - Unit Practice Manual
 John Dempsey Hospital-Department of Nursing
 The University of Connecticut Health Center

PROCEDURE FOR: Culture: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza A and B: Nasopharyngeal Swabs

- POLICY:**
1. From 8AM to 11PM there is a technologist available in the lab to process specimens collected for detection of RSV, Influenza A, and Influenza B.
 2. From 11PM to 8AM nursery staff may collect the specimen and refrigerate in the specimen refrigerator on Labor and Delivery until 8AM. Specimens may be held for up to 24 hours prior to testing.
 3. When rapid antigen testing is requested, a specimen for viral respiratory culture must also be sent.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: When RSV or Influenza A or B is suspected, two tests will be performed, culture and rapid antigen tests. The results from the rapid antigen test will be available approximately one hour after the specimen is received in the laboratory.

EQUIPMENT: One (1) vial of M4 viral transport media (store at 2-8°C in specimen refrigerator on Labor and Delivery)
 Two (2) Dacron Calgi swabs
 Scissors
 One (1) label with patient identification
 Gloves

PROCEDURE:

- | <u>ACTION</u> | <u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u> |
|---|---|
| 1. Gather all needed supplies. | |
| 2. Check viral media to be sure that it is light pink (there should be about 2ml of media in vial). | 2. If media is cloudy, evaporated or bright pink or yellow in color then discard. |
| 3. Clear the nose if the patient has heavy secretions. | 3. The goal is to obtain respiratory epithelial cells of the nasopharyngeal region, not exudates from the infant's nares. |
| 4. a. Insert a sterile, flexible, narrow shafted wire Dacron swab through the nostril and into the nasopharynx until resistance is felt. Rotate the swab for several seconds. | |
| b. Place the swab in the viral media with the Dacron tip down | |

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and cut the swab so that the lid
can be placed on the container.

- c. Repeat the collection with the
second swab in the second
nostril.
 - d. Place the second swab in the
same vial of transport media.
 - e. Cut the excess wire and screw
the cap on tightly.
5. Label the vial and send immediately
to the lab (8AM to 11PM) or
place in the Labor and Delivery
specimen refrigerator (2-8°C)
between 11PM and 8AM.
6. Leave a note for the unit secretary
to take specimens obtained after
11PM to the lab.
6. When the specimen is taken to the
lab, it should be transported on
ice.

REFERENCES: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/94

REVISION DATES: 7/99, 11/04, 10/09

REVIEWED DATES: 11/06, 11/07