

# Laboratory News

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## **Staphylococcus aureus screening by Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing**

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Effective April 8, 2024 the Marshfield Clinic Microbiology and Molecular Pathology laboratory will begin performing *Staphylococcus aureus* screening by Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) on the Cepheid GeneXpert instrument (test code SA-NAT).

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### **Staphylococcus aureus screening by Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing**

*S. aureus* screening is currently performed by culture (Test Codes: MRSA and STAU SCR). The Cepheid *S. aureus* screening assay detects and differentiates methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA) and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA). *S. aureus* screening on the Cepheid GeneXpert instrument will replace previously utilized cultures. Analytical time for screening will be 24 hours.

## Test Details

### Test Code: SA-NAT (Staphylococcus aureus screen by PCR)

➤ **Specimen Collection:**

- Nasal swab collected with ESwab or dual red swab culture transport systems in Stuart's Medium (Copan Transystem Dual Swab)

➤ **Transport Temperature & Stability:**

- Room Temperature: 24 hours
- Refrigerate: 5 days

➤ **Rejection Criteria:**

- Specimens with excessive nasal mucous
- Specimens with excessive blood on swabs
- Specimens exposed to excessive heat
- Sources other than nasal
- Swabs that are cut off or broken in transport tube

➤ **Performed:** Monday through Sunday

➤ **CPT Codes:** 87640 & 87641

## Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Wahlig, Dr. Novicki, or Dr. Arbefeville in the Microbiology laboratory at 715-221-6141.