![St Luke's]

Laboratory Services

Axillary (Armpit) *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA) Specimen Collection

Your doctor has ordered some tests that require an armpit swab.
Below are instructions on how to collect a swab. It is important to follow these
instructions. Any changes may result in inaccurate test results. If you have any questions,
be sure to ask your care provider for assistance.

Read through all instructions before beginning.

Specimen Collection and submission should be done at least 14 days prior to the procedure to allow time for decolonization. Use the MRSA Axillary Specimen Collection kit provided by the laboratory.

This kit will contain:

- Gloves
- White Swab and transport container
- Blank label for patient name and date of birth
- Instructions to collect the sample.
- Biohazard bag for specimen transport.

If any contents from the kit are missing, contact your laboratory for instructions.
The order for S*taphylococcus aureus* screening will be placed at the time of your pre-surgery visit.

Armpit Sample Collection

Step 1	Fill out blank label with your: • Full name • Date of birth • Date and time of collection
Step 2	If deodorant is present, wipe each armpit with paper towel moistened with **water** and pat dry. Do **NO**T use antibacterial soap or cloth.
Step 3	Wash and dry hands and put on gloves. Remove swab from package.
Step 4	Roll swab over the armpit skin 3 times. Using the same swab, roll the swab 3 times over the skin of the other armpit.
Step 5	After swabbing, immediately insert the swab into swab transport tube, break the swab stick off at breakpoint and throw away, and replace the white cap. Label the transport tube with the label filled out in Step 1. Remove used gloves and place in regular trash. Wash hands with soap and water. Place sample in the designated area.
Step 6	**If collecting at home, drop off labeled sample at any St. Luke's Lab location (see separate sheet for drop off locations).** **Specimen stability after collection:** **Room Temperature: 48 hours** **Refrigerated: 7 days** **Frozen: Unacceptable**