



Changes to Specimen Collection for Microbiology Tests

**Prepared by Lab Medicine and Product Evaluation
Committee**

Agenda

- Changes in specimen collection media used for microbiological testing

eSwab™

Why Change? eSwab™

- Intention by NUH Microbiology Lab to switch from the current Amies Gel Fiber Swab to Liquid Media Flocked Swab and MRSA Kit from the 2nd contractual year onwards.

- The PHIs (NTF, SGH, TTSH) have been using eSwabs since 2017.
 1. Improve patient care – better detection of bacteria
 2. Prepare for the future – to be compatible with new lab technology

What Are The Changes?

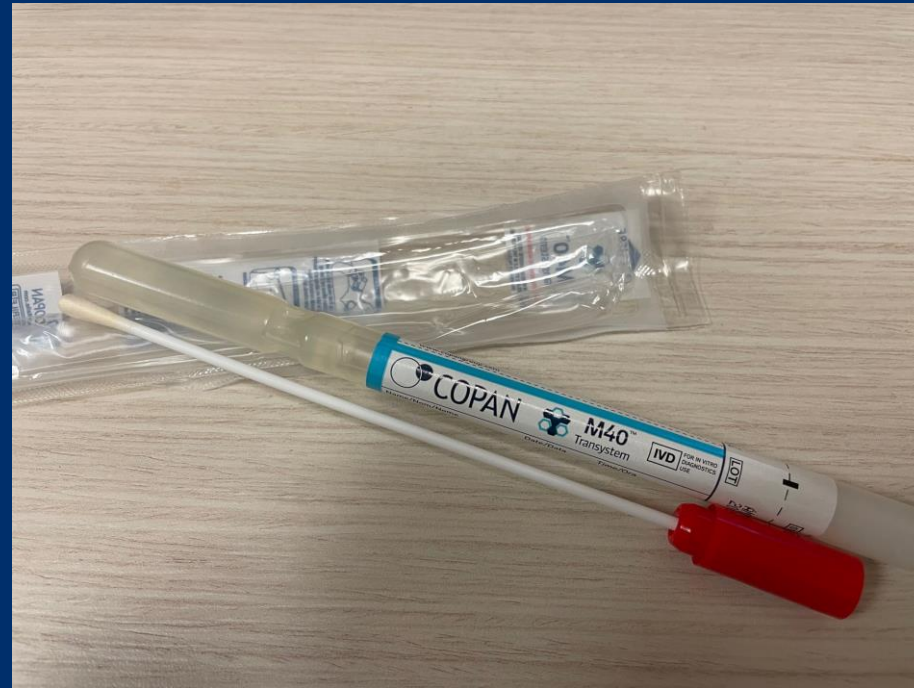
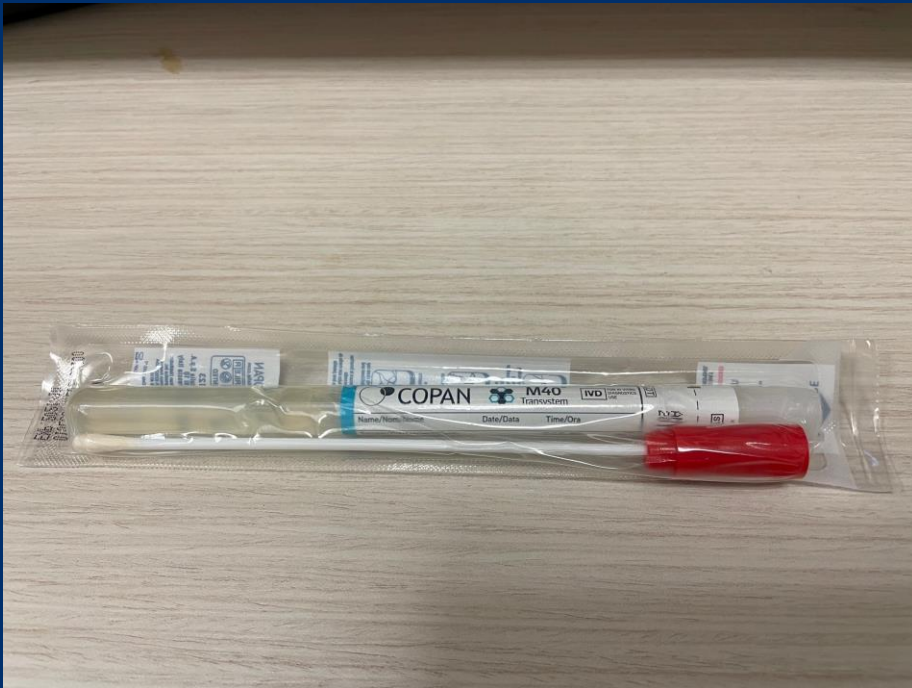
2 changes in total:

Change 1: New specimen collection kit for MRSA, Candida auris screening

Change 2: New specimen collection kit for CRE, VRE screen and routine swabs for bacterial culture

Current Method of Collection

Use Amies Transystem for screening of MRSA, C auris VRE, CRE and bacterial culture



New Collection Kit

Change 1



Double e-Swab kit (1 pink and 1 white)

1. MRSA screening
2. Candida auris screening

- !! Swab technique and usage no different, except :
- Swab goes into transport media which contains liquid &
 - Screening – need 2 swabs and snapping of white stick

Change 2



Single e-Swab kit (1 white)

1. CRE
 2. VRE
 3. Bacterial swab culture (e.g. wound, pus, conjunctival, etc.)
- NOT FOR virology, immunofluorescence (IF), viral PCR**

Steps on using new e-Swab: MRSA, Candida auris screening

Step 1: Open packaging & take out the **PINK swab**, sample the axilla followed by the groin



Step 2: Unscrew cap making sure not to spill the liquid medium.



Step 3: Insert swab completely into liquid medium and gently swirl for 5 seconds.



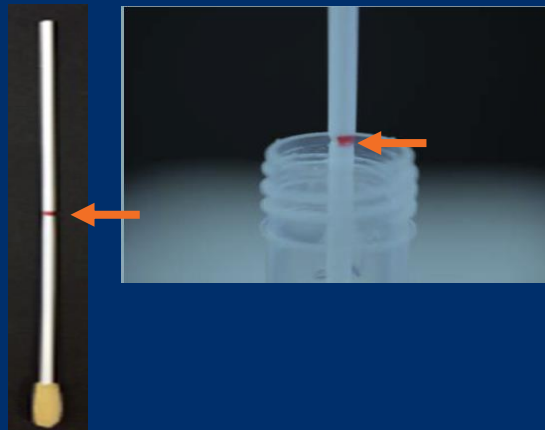
Step 4: Lift swab above liquid medium. Gently roll it against the wall of the tube to drain excess liquid from the swab tip. **Discard swab into general waste bin, recap tube.**



Step 5: Take the **WHITE** swab from packaging. Sample **both nostrils**



Step 6: Unscrew cap. Insert white swab into tube with red breakpoint line aligned to mouth of the tube



Step 7: Break swab into tube



Step 8: Recap the tube **with the white swab inside**. Ensure tube is securely capped. Label accordingly before dispatch.



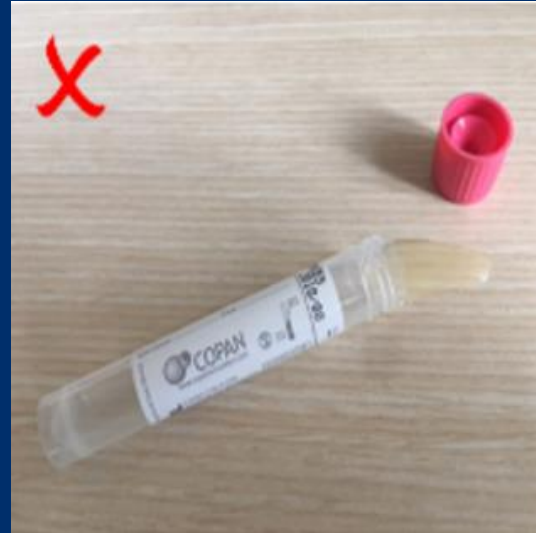
Things to Note



DO NOT cut or leave **pink** swab in the tube
-> **discard it**



DO NOT cramp 2 e-
Swabs into the tube –
only white swab in tube



DO NOT spill liquid in
tube – needed for
testing



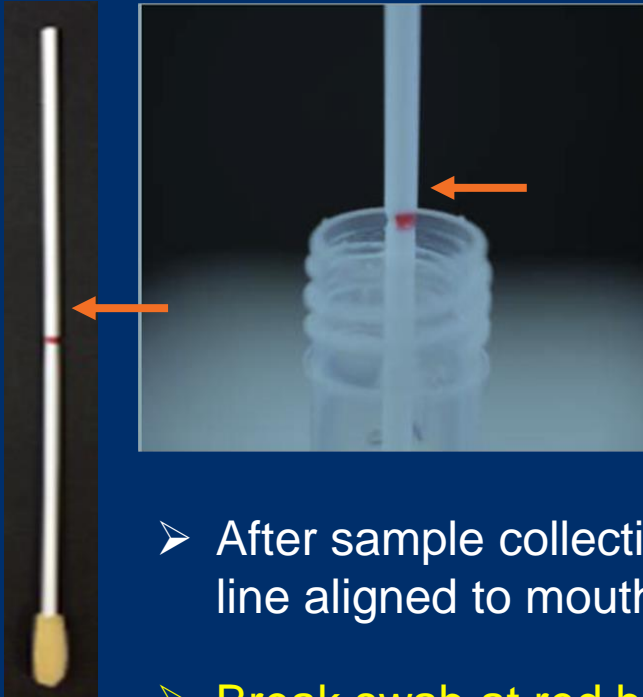
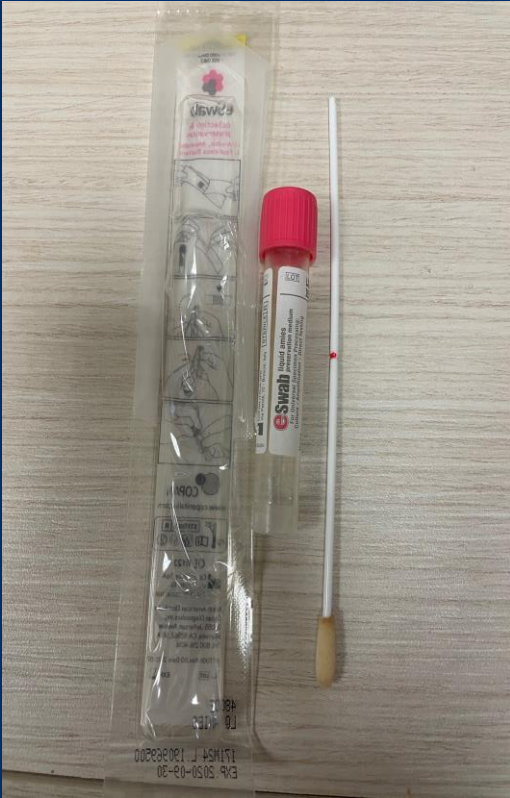
DO NOT paste patient
identification label **over**
the cap

Remember

Pink swab for axilla and groin - > discard

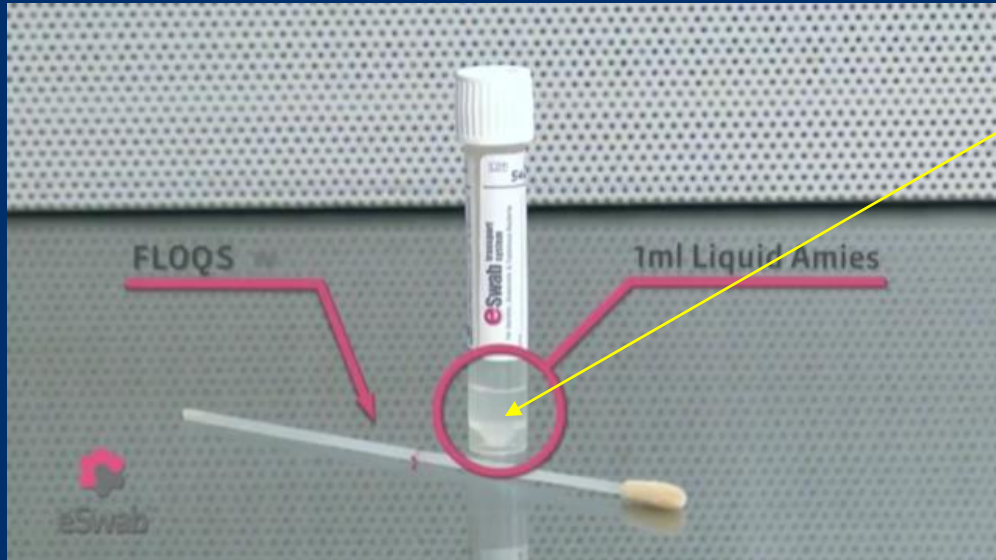
White swab for nose - > break stick and leave inside tube

Steps on using e-Swab for CRE, VRE Screen & Bacterial Swab Culture



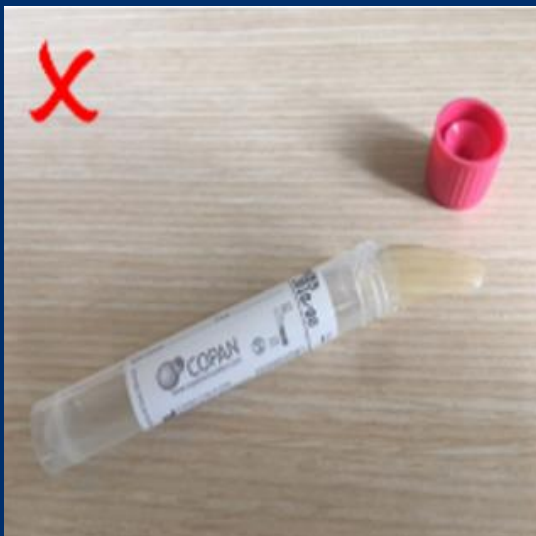
- After sample collection, insert white swab into tube with red breakpoint line aligned to mouth of the tube.
- Break swab at red breakpoint.
- Recap tube with white swab inside.

Key difference compared to current swab : **'essence in the liquid'**



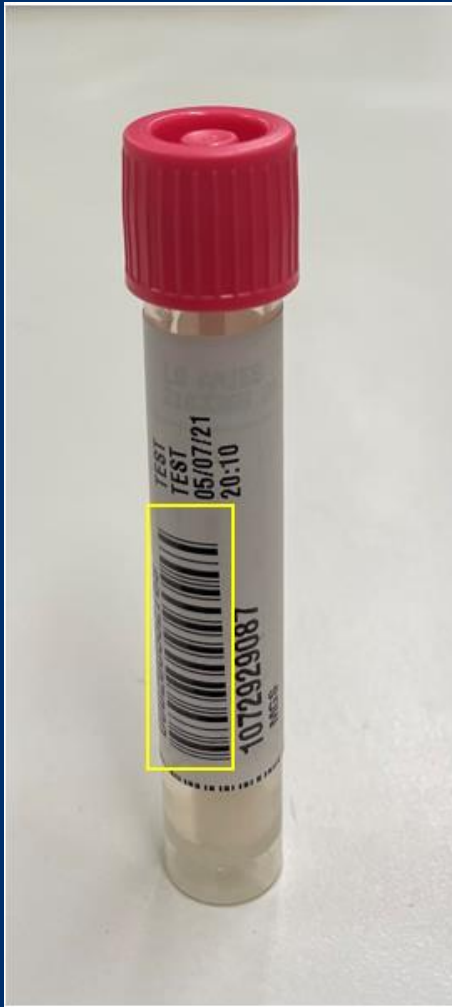
Elution = eSwab

Elution of bacterial material from swab into liquid media → improved sensitivity in bacterial yield

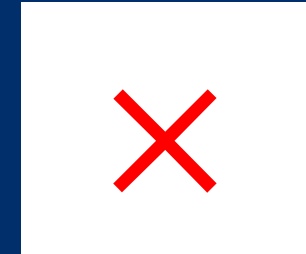


Therefore :
Do not spill or discard liquid within tube

Correct application of label on e-Swab tube



Apply label **along the length** of the tube



Do not wrap label **around** the tube

- Scanner unable to read barcode
- Patient details can be obscured

Question....

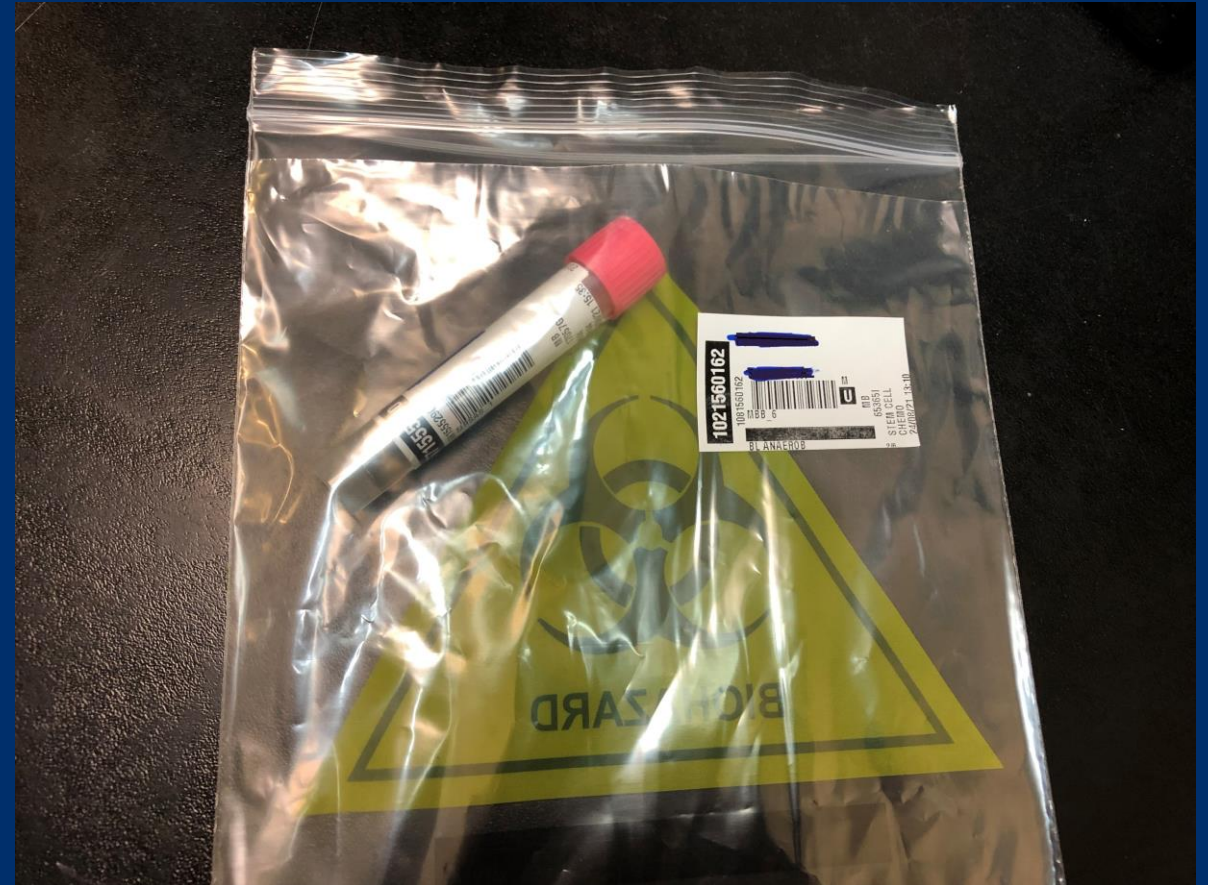
Q : MRSA screening : We now have 2 labels for axilla + groin AND nasal swab, but only one tube.

How do we paste these labels?

The lab plans to switch to one label only, but this change will only happen after NGEMR is well established.

In the interim, please paste :
one label on the tube
and
the other on the biohazard bag

* If you can stick the label on the **inner side** of the biohazard bag (and not obscured by the yellow biohazard logo) – even better!



- eSwab rollout date across NUH : **11th Oct 2021**
- Lab will reject samples sent using Amies Transystem M40 **6 weeks after implementation date ie. 22nd November 2021**
- Samples received incorrectly (both white and pink sticks in the tube, or pink stick in the tube) **will be rejected 6 weeks after implementation date**

Thank you.

