

New MRSA PCR test order**Effective Date: 09/03/2025**

To align testing across all regions and support diagnostic and antimicrobial stewardship, the current *Staphylococcus aureus*/MRSA PCR, Nares [LAB1231047] test will be replaced with MRSA Screen PCR [LAB1231076].

Current test	New test
Staphylococcus aureus/MRSA PCR, Nares [LAB1231047]	MRSA Screen PCR [LAB1231076]

The new test will only report the presence or absence of colonization with methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA). Colonization with methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA, formerly reported as *S. aureus*) will no longer be reported.

Unlike MRSA, the presence or absence of colonization of the nares with MSSA should not be used to diagnose or rule out any condition or tailor antimicrobial prophylaxis.

Additionally, the following restrictions will be added to the test order:

- Ordering will be restricted to one test every 7 days.
- An indication for ordering must be provided for each order. Acceptable indications are:
 - Pneumonia
 - Skin and soft tissue (use for non-purulent infections)
 - Surgical prophylaxis

Studies have shown that there is minimal utility in re-testing within 2 weeks as conversion rates are low and negative predictive values remain high for at least 14 days after initial testing.

Absence of nasal colonization with MRSA cannot be used to reliably rule out MRSA infection in scenarios other than those listed above.

If you have questions, please contact your Beaumont Laboratory Customer Service Department:

- Corewell Health Reference Lab Customer Service: 800-551-0488 or 248-551-1155, Option 5

Date submitted: 07/26/2025**Submitted by: Dr. rer. nat. Ben von Bredow, Technical Director, Microbiology****Reviewed by: Lacy Worden, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist**