New Molecular Assay for Staph Aureus and MRSA

Effective April 9, 2025

DETAILS:

The clinical microbiology lab is launching a new molecular assay for the rapid and accurate detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) from nasal specimens collected by Eswab, which replaces the current traditional culture screening methods.

Key Benefits

- **Rapid Results*:** The new molecular method enables results within 12 hours compared to the 1-3 day turnaround time of conventional culture techniques.
- **Enhanced Sensitivity & Specificity:** Improved detection rates minimize false negatives and allow for early identification, which is critical for patient management and infection control.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Reduced hands-on time and streamlined workflow contribute to faster reporting and overall operational efficiency in the laboratory.
- **Improved Patient Outcomes:** Early and accurate identification of *S. aureus* and MRSA facilitates timely intervention and targeted treatment strategies, thereby enhancing patient care.

* At go live, expect 24/7 <24 hours TAT, with reduction to <8-12 hours within the next 1-2 months as additional run times are added to the test schedule

This change will automatically replace the current test codes in MiChart, requiring no change in ordering practices or order-set utilization for the end user:

- For MRSA screening only: "Methicillin Resistant Staphylococci Culture, Nasal" will be replaced by "**Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus Nasal Screen, PCR**
    - Results
        - "MRSA detected"
        - "MRSA not detected"
- For both S. aureus (SA) and MRSA screening: "Staphylococcus aureus Culture, Nasal " will be replaced by "**Staph aureus and MRSA Nasal Screen, PCR**"
    - Results:
        - "MRSA detected"
        - "SA detected"
        - "No SA detected"

Note: If a provider requires testing **from a site other than nasal**, they should send a paper test requisition, as this will not be an orderable option in Michart.