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MLabs Test Update

The MLabs Microbiology Laboratory will begin offering new molecular assays for the rapid and accurate detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from nasal specimens collected using an eSwab kit, which will replace our traditional culture screening methods effective April 9, 2025.

Methicillin Resistant Staph aureus Screen (order code MRSAP) will replace Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Culture (order code MRSA) and Staph aureus and MRSA Screen by PCR (order code STSNP) will replace Staphylococcus Culture (order code STSN) for nasal specimens. The Culture order codes will remain active but orderable only by laboratory staff for non-nasal specimen sources.

The new tests utilize nucleic acid amplification technology offering the following 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.

Michigan Medicine Test Updates

[New Molecular Assay for Staph Aureus and MRSA](#) (PDF)

[New MiChart order pathways for the BioFire® Meningitis/Encephalitis PCR Panel \(MEPAN\)](#) (PDF)

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