

**Procedure:** Nasopharyngeal specimen collection, ambulatory care

**Checklist:** Nasopharyngeal specimen collection, ambulatory care

**Evaluator's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Examinee's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator's ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Examinee's ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator's Dept:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Examinee's Dept:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meets criteria/Does not meet criteria:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Evaluation Method:**

- Clinical Observation  Documentation Review
- Demonstration  Verbalization

**Nasopharyngeal specimen collection, ambulatory care**

**Objective:** To collect a nasopharyngeal specimen according to the standard of care.

Checklist Step	Comments
Y- Meets; N- Does not meet; I- Not Applicable	
__ Verify the practitioner's order.	
__ Gather the appropriate equipment.	
__ Perform hand hygiene.	
__ Confirm the patient's identity using at least two patient identifiers.	
__ Provide privacy.	
__ Explain the procedure to the patient and family (if appropriate), according to their individual communication and learning needs.	
__ Explain that the patient may gag or feel the urge to sneeze during specimen collection but that the procedure takes less than 1 minute.	
__ Instruct the patient to sit erect at the edge of the bed or in a chair, facing you.	
__ Provide a tissue and instruct the patient to blow the nose.	
__ Perform hand hygiene.	
__ Put on gloves and, as needed, other personal protective equipment.	
__ Check the patient's nostrils for patency using a penlight.	
__ Determine which nostril is more patent by instructing the patient to exhale and occlude one nostril at a time.	

- While it's still in the package, bend the sterile, flexible swab in a curve. Then open the package without contaminating the swab.
- Instruct the patient to cough.
- Instruct the patient to tilt the head back to about 70 degrees.
- Pass the swab gently through the more patent nostril into the nasopharynx. Alternatively, depress the patient's tongue with a tongue blade and pass the bent swab up behind the uvula. Rotate the swab quickly and then remove it.
- Insert the swab into the transport medium and break off the contaminated end of the swab.
- Close the culture tube tightly.
- Remove and discard your gloves and other personal protective equipment, if worn.
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Label the culture tube in the presence of the patient.
- Complete a laboratory request form, if needed.
- Immediately send the culture tube to the laboratory in a laboratory biohazard transport bag. If transport to the laboratory is delayed, place the specimen on ice or in refrigeration.
- Discard used supplies in appropriate receptacles.
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Document the procedure.