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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluator's Name:</th>
<th>Examinee's Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluator's ID:</th>
<th>Examinee's ID:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluator's Dept:</th>
<th>Examinee's Dept:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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