

Core Competency Assessment Skills Demonstration Overview: Nasopharyngeal Swab Specimen Collection

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA for NP Swab Specimen Collection

1. Gathers equipment/ supplies and set-up field.
2. Verbalizes hand hygiene and don PPE.
3. Instructs client to tilt head slightly back and assesses nasal patency.
4. Inserts swab into nasal passage, straight back along the floor of the nasal passage until reaching the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. The distance is equivalent to that from the nostril to the ear of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
5. Rotates swab **2-3 times** and holds swab in place for **5-10 seconds**.

1. Verbalizes verification of NP swab order.
2. Verifies patient identity using two patient identifiers (e.g., Name & DOB).
3. Verbalizes explanation of the procedure to the patient.
4. Verbalizes verification of patient consent.
5. Gathers equipment/ supplies and sets-up field for NP swab procedure.
6. Performs hand hygiene (at least 20 seconds) and dons PPE.
7. Performs NP Swab Collection per protocol.
8. Completes the laboratory requisition form.
9. Disposes of infectious waste.
10. Removes PPE and perform hand hygiene (at least 20 seconds).
11. Documents NP swab procedure.

6. Removes swab and places in transport medium.
7. Breaks the shaft at the breakpoint and applies the cap tightly.

8. Labels the specimen.
9. Places specimen into the Biohazard zip lock bag.

Additional information:

- <http://intranet.ph.lacounty.gov/ph/PDFs/PolicyProcedures/MD117.pdf>
- <http://intranet.ph.lacounty.gov/ph/Training/LCPbasiccompetencies.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/lab/NP-Specimen-Collection-Infographic.pdf>

