

OBSERVATION TOOL

Purpose: This observation tool is used to assist in the assessment of the individual performing a nasopharyngeal swab. This is an assessment tool and is not intended to teach the procedure. Please use this tool in combination with your organizations approved teaching resources, policies and procedures. When using the tool, in addition to noting Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory and Not Performed, please utilize the comments section to note areas for improvement, behaviors to celebrate and/or instances to discuss.

Scope: This tool can be used to support individual practice, peer to peer observation, or by a supervisor to authorize the individual as competent to perform this skill. It is the responsibility of the individual to know if this procedure is within their professional scope of practice as supported by provincial regulation, college and employer standards.

Context: Recall that in the clinical setting the performance of these procedures occur in client encounters and are linked to patient centered care approaches which while central to patient care, may or may not be demonstrated during this skills observation.

S= Satisfactory

U= Unsatisfactory

NP= Not Performed

Nasopharyngeal Swab		
	S, U, or NP	Comments
PRE-PROCEDURE		
1. Perform hand hygiene and don appropriate PPE.		
2. Introduce self to the patient.		
3. Verify the correct patient using two identifiers.		
4. Explain the procedure to the patient including review of symptoms and management of vasovagal response, develop shared understanding and ensure consent.		
PROCEDURE		
1. Position the patient with head raised in a chair, in an upright bed, in a car with their head resting on the headrest, or while being held by caregiver.		
2. Have the patient clear any debris obstructing nares and to identify best nares for procedure.		

Nasopharyngeal Swab		
	S, U, or NP	Comments
PROCEDURE (continued)		
3. To obtain suitable access, tilt the patients head slightly back to 70°, and then limit movement. Advise patient they can close their eyes if this provides comfort.		
4. Pass the swab inside the nare, along the nasal septum, parallel to the hard palate, into the nasopharynx, until resistance is met. Monitor swab depth, when resistance is met ensure it is the nasopharynx and not resistance from a nasal turbinate.		
5. Rotate the swab against the nasopharyngeal mucosa for approximately 10 seconds.		
6. Gently remove the swab from the nares, place it into its container, and ensure the tip is pushed into the medium at the bottom of the tube.		
7. Secure the swab into tube, label per organizational policy and send for transport to the lab.		
POST-PROCEDURE		
1. Assess the patient, review next steps, address questions, concerns, and provide additional supports as needed.		
2. Discard supplies, remove PPE, and perform hand hygiene.		
3. Document the procedure as per organizational policy.		

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Last Revised:	22-Dec-2020	First Issued:	26-Oct-2020
Resources:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8r4es548uQ&feature=youtu.be		

Based on the observations please make a recommendation and provide supporting comments	
Recommendation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Further practice and/or supports required	
<input type="checkbox"/> No further practice or supports required	

Please sign and date below. If you are a supervisor certifying the individual as competent to perform this procedure in the clinical arena, please include designation.

	Name	Signature	Date
Skill Performer			
Peer Observer			
Supervisor/Educator			



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