

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 1820
VERSION: 2**

SUBJECT/TITLE: SCM-16I NASAL WASH COLLECTION PROCEDURES

POLICY: Specimens for laboratory testing require proper collection and timely transport to the laboratory for optimal results.

PURPOSE: How to perform a nasal wash to obtain adequate specimen for testing.

DEPARTMENTS: PATHOLOGY

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: Nasal Wash from Adults and Older Children:

1. Have subject hyper-extend their head and instill 1 vial (3.0 mL) of sterile saline into one nostril.
2. Have the subject tilt their head forward and place a collection container in front of their nose to allow for fluid to run out.
3. Repeat this procedure in the other nostril and collect fluid in the same collection container.

Nasal Wash from Younger Children:

1. Have the child sit in the parent's lap facing forward, with the child's head against the parent's chest.
2. Fill an aspiration bulb with 1 vial (3.0 mL) sterile saline. Saline can be dispensed into clean collection container to fill the bulb.
3. Instill the saline into 1 nostril while the child's head is tilted back, then release the pressure on the bulb to aspirate back into the bulb.
4. Transfer the sample to a sterile container.
5. Repeat this procedure on the other nostril and transfer sample to same container.

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"New version created for CAP requirement DRA.11485 (no document changes)"	
References:	
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