

## Nasopharyngeal Culture



<b>Alternate Name:</b>	Bordetella pertussis culture
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	New Hanover
<b>Specimen Container:</b>	Culture swab or Nasopharyngeal aspirate or Nasopharyngeal washing in a capped syringe or sterile tube
<b>Minimum Volume Required:</b>	0.5 mL or a swab
<b>Testing Availability</b>	<b>Routine:</b> 24 hours/day <b>Stat:</b> No
<b>Turnaround Time:</b>	Preliminary reports available after 24 hours.  Bordetella pertussis results may take up to 7 days.
<b>Special Handling:</b>	Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Specimen Stability:</b>	
<b>Reference Range:</b>	Normal Respiratory Flora
<b>Critical Value:</b>	None
<b>CPT Code:</b>	87070 Culture of nasopharynx 87081 Culture for Bordetella pertussis
<b>Test Includes:</b>	Gram stain  Isolation and identification of potential upper respiratory tract bacterial pathogens.  Specimens may be cultured for Bordetella pertussis upon request.  Antibiotic susceptibility testing where indicated.
<b>Causes for Specimen Rejection:</b>	Improper labeling.

Specimen not collected in a sterile container.  
Specimen container must not be contaminated on the outside.  
Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.

**Other Comments:**

**Clinical Significance:**

Culture of the nose (as opposed to nasopharynx) is primarily for the detection of staphylococcus aureus. The significance of other organisms is difficult to assess since this site and its discharges can easily be colonized by a variety of organisms.