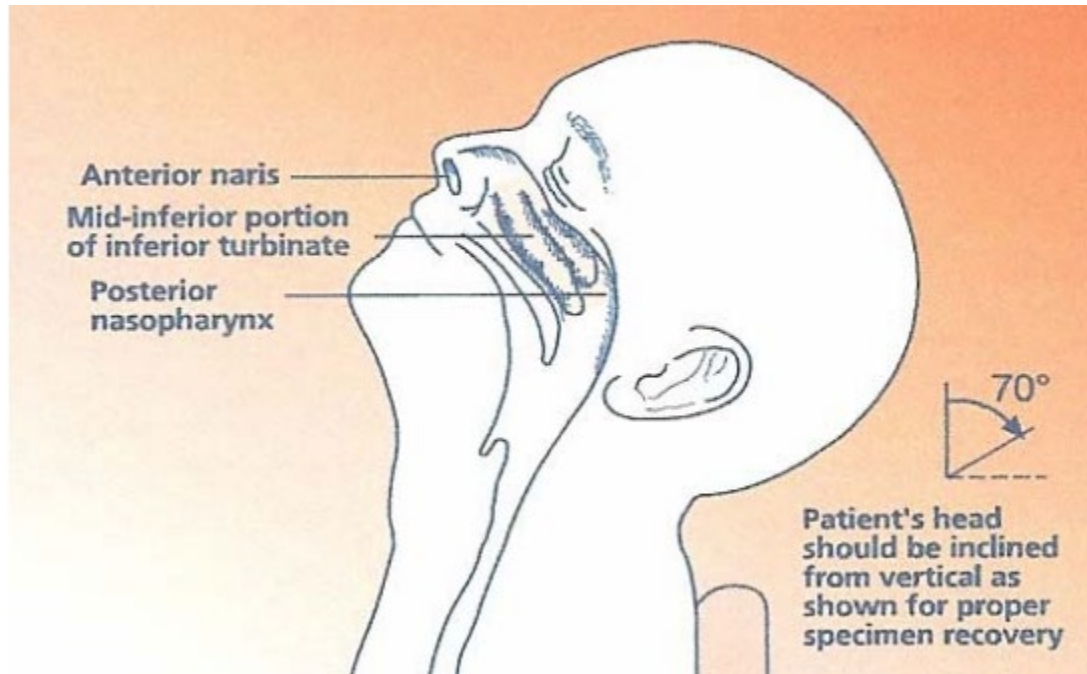


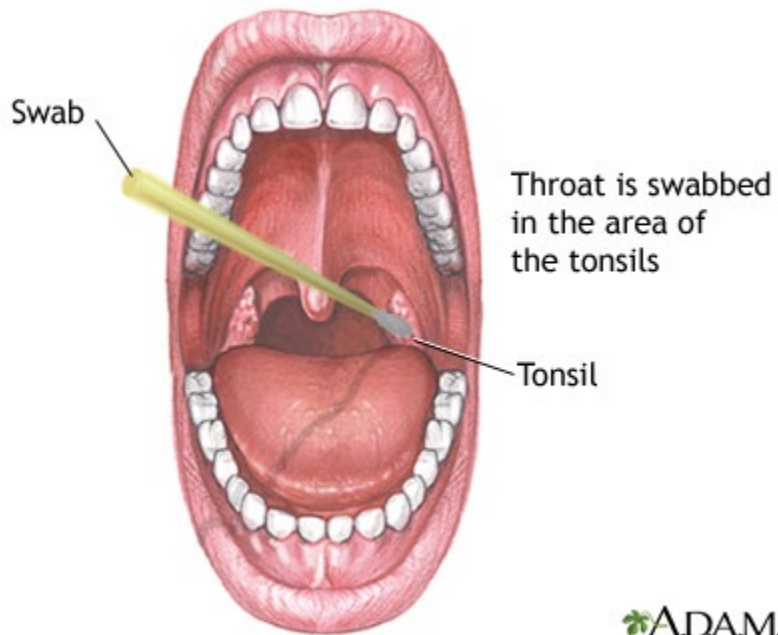
Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection

*Use only synthetic fiber swabs with thin plastic or wire shafts that have been designed for sampling the nasopharyngeal mucosa.



1. Educate patient about procedure.
2. Perform hand hygiene/apply proper PPE.
3. Check expiration date of supplies and open packages.
4. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees (refer to diagram).
5. Gently and slowly insert the swab through the nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient.
6. Gently rub and roll the swab.
7. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
8. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab but is not necessary if the swab is saturated with fluid from the first nostril.
9. Place the swab tip first into the transport tube. Once the tip is near the bottom, break the swab handle by bending it back and forth or cutting it off with a sterile scissors. Replace the cap and ensure it is secure to avoid leaking.
10. Label specimen in the presence of the patient using the patient's full name and medical record number.
11. Send specimen to the laboratory.

Oropharyngeal Specimen Collection



1. Educate patient about procedure.
2. Perform hand hygiene/apply proper PPE.
3. Check expiration date of supplies and open packages.
4. Ask the patient to tilt their head back slightly and open their mouth as wide as possible.
5. Insert swab into the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas.
6. Rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx and avoid touching the tongue, teeth, and gums.
7. Place swab immediately into the appropriate collection vial. Break the shaft at the notch if needed for the collection device. Replace the cap and ensure it is secure to avoid leaking.
8. Label specimen in the presence of the patient using the patient's full name and medical record number.
9. Send specimen to the laboratory.

Anterior Nasal Collection



1. Educate patient about procedure.
2. Perform hand hygiene/apply proper PPE.
3. Check expiration date of supplies and open packages.
4. Insert the entire collection tip of the swab provided inside the nostril about 1 inch. If resistance is felt, do not insert any further.
5. Firmly sample the nasal wall by rotating the swab in a circular path against the wall at least 5 times.
6. Repeat the same procedure in the other nostril using the same swab.
7. Place swab immediately into the appropriate collection vial. Break the shaft at the notch if needed for the collection device. Replace the cap and ensure it is secure to avoid leaking.
8. Label specimen in the presence of the patient using the patient's full name and medical record number.
9. Send specimen to the laboratory.