

Patient and Family Education:

Screening Tests

What is a screening test and why is it being done?

A screening test is used to see if patients have a certain germ. In this case, a patient with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) was found in your region. An MDRO is a germ that might be difficult to kill with standard antibiotics. Your health department has requested screening of patients at a facility where you currently are or have recently been treated. This is to make sure the germ has not spread.

How is the screening test taken?

A rectal swab is used for the screening test. The patient's clinical care team will tell the patient the steps before collecting the screening test.

Will it hurt?

No, it is a painless and non-invasive test. A person from the patient's clinical care team will collect the test.

When will the test results come back?

The results are typically available two-three days after the swab is received by the laboratory.

What happens if the test result is positive?

If the patient has an MDRO, medical staff will let them know and may need to change their medical treatment. To stop the spread to others, the patient will be put on contact precautions, and healthcare workers will wear gloves and gowns to provide routine care.

How long will the patient have an MDRO?

It is not known how long patients will have an MDRO. Be sure to tell medical staff that the patient has a history of an MDRO each time he or she goes to a healthcare facility.

If you have questions, please contact your local health department by calling 1-877-PA-HEALTH

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