

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 may not be killed by antimicrobials. The Florida Department of Health has requested screening patients at this facility to make sure this germ has not spread.

How is the screening test taken?

An armpit and groin swab are used for the screening test. The patient's clinical care team should tell the patient the steps before collecting the screening test.

When will the test results come back?

Medical staff should tell the patient their results within 2-10 days after screening.

Will it hurt?

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

What happens if the test result is positive?

If the patient has an MDRO, medical staff should tell the patient. To stop the spread to others, the patient may be put on contact precautions, which is a private room, and visitors may be told to wear gloves, gowns, or masks. While this method is preferred, this may vary by facility.

How long will the patient have an MDRO?

It is not known how long patients will have an MDRO. Make sure to tell medical staff that the patient has a history of an MDRO each time the patient goes to a health care facility.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Florida Department of Health, Health Care-Associated Infection Prevention Program at:

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