



Instructions for respiratory culture algorithm use:

Prior to algorithm implementation, we recommend you meet with nurses to ensure they understand the content of the algorithm and feel comfortable using it. The algorithm is intended for use by nurses primarily but not exclusively; the algorithms can be used by any healthcare provider who order or collect respiratory cultures.

- This algorithm is for use in hospitalized adult patients in *intensive care units*.
- If the pathway in the algorithm ends in “do not collect a respiratory specimen for bacterial culture, communicate with ordering provider”, review the need for the respiratory culture with the rest of the primary team.
- An additional resource recommended for use in conjunction with this algorithm is the [SBAR Communication Tool](#) (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation) to aid nurses in communicating their assessments to the respective ordering provider.