

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CULTURE COLLECTION

(DO NOT use as a substitute for the Collection Manual)

AEROBIC, routine (abscess, ear, eye, genital, nose, throat, wound)	Routine aerobic culturette IF gram stain is desired, must collect TWO culturettes.
ANAEROBIC (NOT ACCEPTABLE ORDER for ear canal, genital, nose, throat, sputum)	BEST SPECIMEN is aspirate or tissue (no formalin). If swab, MUST use ANAEROBIC culturette (has a glass tube exterior)
BODY or JOINT FLUID	As much volume as possible in sterile container or syringe/no needle NO SWABS, NO EDTA TUBES
IV CATHETER TIP	Clip off distal 3 inches into sterile urine container. NO GAUZE.
GROUP B STREP SCREEN CULTURE	Routine culturette
CHLAMYDIA and/or GC by GENPROBE	Gender specific GENPROBE collection kit w/ transport broth.
CHLAMYDIA CULTURE	Viral / chlamydia transport media. Must contact lab prior to collection.
GC CULTURE	Requires inoculation of media at the bedside. Must contact lab prior to collection. Transport on routine culturette is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
VIRAL CULTURE	Viral / chlamydia transport media. Must contact lab prior to collection.
AFB (Mycobacterium, TB)	SWABS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE
Abscess or Body Fluid Aspirate	As much volume as possible in a sterile container or syringe/no needle
Blood or Bone marrow	Blood culture Isolator tube - NO SUBSTITUTE is acceptable
CSF	At least 2 ml of fluid

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Skin lesion or Tissue	Biopsy only - no formalin NO SWABS
Sputum	First morning specimen on three consecutive days. See collection manual for patient instructions!
Urine	Total first morning void. See collection manual for patient instructions!

FUNGUS

Abscess or Body Fluid Aspirate	NO SWABS. Submit as much volume as possible in sterile container or syringe/no needle.
Blood or Bone marrow	Blood culture Isolator tube - NO SUBSTITUTE is acceptable
CSF	At least 2 ml of fluid
Skin lesion or Tissue	Biopsy only - no formalin NO SWABS
Eye	Corneal scraping, contact lab prior to collection
Ear canal, nasopharynx, throat, vagina	Swab is acceptable, but the fungus/yeast isolated from those sources are readily recovered from routine culture and should not require fungus culture orders.
Hair, Skin Scraping, Nails	Submit in sterile container
Sputum	First morning specimen