Specimen Stability Chart
Microbiology Testing

TEST	SPECIMEN TYPE	ROOM TEMP	2 - 8 C	- 20 C
MALARIA SMEAR	EDTA PLASMA	< 1 HR		
MYCOPLASMA	SERUM (RED TOP)	< 3 HRS	< 72 HRS	N/A
SYN. FLD CRYSTAL ID		< 3 DAYS		
CULTURE aerobic	SWAB	UP TO 72 HRS		
	UNPRESERVED SPEC	ASAP		
CULTURE anaerobic	ANAEROBIC SWAB	UP TO 72 HRS w/ a white indicator		
	UNPRESERVED <1 ML	<10 MIN		
	UNPRESERVED >2 ML	<2 HRS		
CULTURE urine	UNPRESERVED	<2 HRS	<24 HRS	
	PRESERVED GRAY TOI	<48 HRS		
CULTURE blood	BOTTLES	<24 HRS for automation		
	ISOLATOR	<8 HRS if full tube		
	ISOLATOR PEDI TUBE	<16 HRS		
CULTURE afb	BLOOD / BONE MARR	in Isolator tube	UNACCEPT	
	ALL OTHER SPEC	<1 HR	<24 HRS	
CULTURE fungus		<2 HRS	<24 HRS	
	BLOOD / BONE MARR / CSF	ASAP @ 30-37C	UNACCEPT	
	HAIR /SKIN/ NAILS	<24HRS	UNACCEPT	
CULTURE eye		bedside inoculation		
CULTURE, *N gonorrhoeae*		bedside inoculation w/CO2	UNACCEPT	
Bordatella pertussis by PCR			refrig only	
CULTURE stool	PRESERVED orange cap	<96 hrs w/ red indicator	unaccept	
OVA/PARASITE	PRESERVED pink/blue	indefinitely		
	UNPRESERVED for amoeba	<1 hr		
C difficile TOXIN	UNPRESERVED	ASAP	<24 HRS	UNACCEPT
FECAL LEUKOCYTES	UNPRESERVED	ASAP	<24 HRS	UNACCEPT
OCCB	HEMOCCULT CARD	<14 DAYS		
List compiled in 2009; Revised in April, 2010				