

Specimen Collection Manual – Central Vermont Medical Center					Effective Date: March 2010		
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Path/File Name: \\Cvmc.org\cvmc root\CVMC Shared Files\Lab\Specimen Collection Manual\Section 3 - Microbiology\1. Anaerobic Culture Specimen Collection.doc							
Replaces: none							
Revised Dates:							
Reviewed by:	MS	HHC					
Date Reviewed:	2/12	2/14					

## ANAEROBIC CULTURE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

### PROCEDURE FOR SYRINGE COLLECTION (Optimal specimen for anaerobic recovery)

1. Disinfect collection site with 70% alcohol prior to collection.
2. Aspirate sample into syringe, avoiding exposure of sample to oxygen.
3. Expel any aspirated air from syringe, remove needle and recap syringe. Small samples (<0.5 cc.) can be placed directly into thio broth.
4. Label syringe or broth with name and date of birth.
5. Transport to laboratory for processing immediately.
6. Do not refrigerate.

### PROCEDURE FOR USING AN ANAEROBIC CULTURETTE

1. Peel open BBL Culture Swab Plus package.
2. Remove cap from transport tube.
3. Remove applicator swab and collect specimen using aseptic technique.
4. Replace cap/swab stick in transport tube.
5. Record patients name and date of birth on tube label.
6. Take the anaerobic culturette to the lab immediately for culture.
7. Do not refrigerate.

8. CultureSwab Plus will maintain viability of many microorganism for 24-28 hours. Fastidious organisms such as *Neisseria gonorrhea*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and anaerobes must be planted within 24 hours for optimal recovery.

## **PROCEDURE FOR SPECIMEN HANDLING, OTHER SPECIMENS**

1. Avoid exposure to room air for more than one hour.
2. Do not refrigerate sample.
3. Specimens should be collected taking care to avoid inclusion of normal flora.
4. Sites usually considered unacceptable for anaerobic culture:
  - Expectorated sputum
  - Feces / rectal swab
  - Gastric or small bowel contents (except blind loop syndrome)
  - Ileostomy or colostomy drainage
  - Nasopharyngeal swab
  - superficial (open) skin lesions
  - Throat
  - Urethral swab
  - Vaginal or cervical swabs
  - voided or catheterized urine
  - CultureSwab (aerobic) samples
5. Specimen must be labeled with patient name (first and last), date of birth and site of collection.

## **References**

1. BD BBL CultureSwab Plus Package insert H084 Revised 5/02.
2. Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology, Eleventh Edition, Copyright 2002, Forbes, Sahm & Weissfeld.