# ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS FOR ANAEROBIC CULTURE:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS</th>
<th>UNACCEPTABLE (REJECTABLE) SPECIMENS</th>
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| **Head & Neck**             | 1. Abscess aspirate w/needle & syringe after decontamination  
2. Biopsy surgically obtained  
3. Anaerobic swab surgically obtained when aspiration not feasible | 1. Throat  
2. Nasopharyngeal swabs  
3. Gingival swabs  
4. Superficial material obtained with swab                                                                                                                  |
| Lungs                       | 1. Trans-tracheal aspirate  
2. Material from percutaneous lung puncture  
3. Biopsy surgically obtained  
4. Bronchoalveolar lavage washing  
5. Thoracotomy specimen  
6. Anaerobic swab surgically obtained  
7. Pleural fluid | 1. Expectorated sputum  
2. Induced sputum  
3. Endotracheal aspirate  
4. Unprotected Bronchoscopic specimens-Bronch wash/BAL  
5. Bronchoalveolar lavage washing                                                                                                                              |
| Central Nervous System      | 1. Abscess aspirate obtained w/ needle & syringe  
2. Biopsy material surgically obtained  
3. CSF from shunt | 1. Aerobic swabs                                                                                                                                           |
| Abdomen                     | 1. Peritoneal fluid obtained by needle & syringe  
2. Abscess aspirate obtained by needle & syringe  
3. bile  
4. Biopsy material surgically obtained | 1. Aerobic swabs                                                                                                                                           |
| Urinary Tract               | 1. Suprapubic aspirate  
2. Percutaneous nephrostomy (verify w/surgery) | 1. Voided urine  
2. Catheterized urine  
3. Cystoscopic urine                                                                                                                                            |
| Upper Respiratory           | 1. Nasal sinus aspirate  
2. Sinus washing or swab collected in surgery | 1. Sinus washings or swabs NOT collected in surgery  
2. Nasopharyngeal swab                                                                                                                                           |
| Female Genital Tract        | 1. Culdoscopy specimens  
2. Endometrial aspirate obtained by suction or protected collector  
3. Abscess aspirate obtained by needle & syringe  
4. Biopsy material surgically collected  
5. Bartholin’s gland secretions  
6. IUD for Actinomyces culture | 1. Vaginal or vulvar secretions/swab  
2. Cervical secretions/swab  
3. Lochia secretions  
4. Prostatic or seminal fluid  
5. Urethral secretions/swab                                                                                                                                       |
| Bone & Joint                | 1. Aspirate obtained by needle & syringe  
2. Biopsy material surgically obtained | 1. Superficial material collected with swabs                                                                                                                   |
| Soft Tissue                 | 1. Aspirate obtained by needle & syringe  
2. Biopsy material surgically obtained  
3. Aspirate from sinus tract obtained by needle & plastic catheter  
4. Deep aspirate of open wound margin after decontamination  
5. Deep aspirate of surface ulcer obtained after decontamination | 1. Superficial material collected from skin surface or edges of wound                                                                                         |
| Blood                       | 1. Blood  
2. Bone marrow aspirate |                                                                                                                                           |
| Other Specimen Sources      | 1. Decubiti & other surface ulcers: Punch Bx., small curettings of deep tissue at margin or aspirated material via needle & syringe after thorough disinfection of the surface  
2. Fluid from normally sterile site i.e. joint etc.  | 1. Perineal/Perirectal swab (non-surg)  
2. Stool or rectal swabs  
3. Swabs from decubiti or other surface ulcers/skin lesions are never appropriate (non-surgical)  
4. Syringe w/Needle attached                                                                                                                                   |