

Culturing Specimens

Unacceptable Specimens (Will Be Rejected)

1. Unlabeled specimen; specimen with only one identifier; non-matching identifiers
2. Leaking or damaged containers
3. **Specimens in syringes with attached needles (even if capped)**
4. Specimens with prolonged transport times
5. Duplicate specimens (except blood and tissue): same site, same day, same test
6. Urine
 - a. unpreserved: >2hr; cold: >24; preserved: >72 hr
 - b. pooled specimens
 - c. Foley catheter tips
7. Tissue: in non sterile container; dry
8. Sputum: pooled specimens
9. Anaerobic Culture:
 - a. specimen **other than:**
 - tissue in a cup,
 - fluid in a syringe, and
 - swab in an anaerobic transport device
 - b. never acceptable
aerobic swab, sputum, bronchial, tracheal, throat, mouth/oral, nasal, N/P, urine, gastric, stones, superficial skin, GI fistula, GI tract
10. Fungal Culture
 - a. specimen on a swab (except vaginal and throat for yeast)
11. AFB culture
 - a. specimen on a swab
12. *C. difficile*: formed stool; duplicate orders