




Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

Outpatient/PDSS




LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIMENS: Patient Name, (First and Last), Birthdate or other unique identifier, Specimen Source, Collect Date/Time

Culture Type	Container	Item #	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Acid Fast Culture (Mycobacteria)	<p>Sterile Container</p> 	# 20479 Order by each 75 ea/bag	<p>Sputum: >5 mL required. First morning specimen preferred.</p> <p>For blood, sodium heparin tube preferred. Lithium heparin acceptable. Do not centrifuge.</p>	<p>Refrigerate.</p> <p>Keep specimen at room temperature if other cultures are needed on same specimen</p>	Swabs are not appropriate specimens for AFB culture.
Aerobic Culture (Routine Bacterial Culture)	<p>BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system – not acceptable for anaerobic cultures</p>  <p>Sterile Container</p> 	<p>Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack</p> <p>Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each 75 ea/bag</p>	<p>Used for bacterial cultures.</p> <p>The following sources are accepted, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abscesses/Wound Arm Ear Eye Foot Surgical Specimens Throat Vaginal <p>Note: for urine culture, follow “Urine Culture” directives at end of guide</p>	<p>Room Temperature</p> <p>Stable for 2 days in transport media</p>	<p>Tissue and fluid specimens preferred when possible.</p> <p>Material selected for culture must be from the actual site of infection, collected with a minimum of contamination from adjacent tissues, organs, or secretions.</p>

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Anaerobic Culture	<p>BBL Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector</p>  <p>Sterile Container</p> 	<p>Anaerobic swab: #19511 Order by each</p> <p>Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each (75 ea/bag)</p>	<p>The following sources are accepted, but not limited to:</p> <p>Abscesses Fluids Surgical Specimens Wound</p>	<p>Room Temperature Stability: <12 hours</p>	<p>Tissue and Fluid is preferred over swab specimens to enhance the recovery of anaerobes.</p> <p>Anaerobic cultures are <u>not</u> performed on: catheter tips, mouth, vaginal, urine, sputum.</p>
<p>Blood Culture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Blood Culture, Fungus</p>	<p>1 set of blood culture bottles pictured.</p> 	<p>Aerobic bottle (Blue Cap): # 31330 Order by each</p> <p>Anaerobic bottle (Yellow cap): # 31331 Order each</p>	<p>See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period.</p>	<p>Room temperature. Do not refrigerate. Stability: <24 hours</p>	<p>Send to Microbiology as soon as possible after collection.</p> <p>Do not refrigerate</p>

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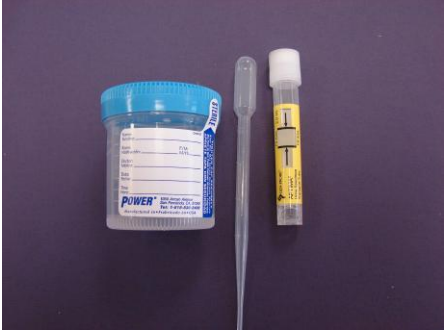


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Blood Culture Pediatric Patient	1 pediatric bottle 	Pediatric bottle (Pink top): # 14138 Order by each	See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period	Room temperature. Do not refrigerate. Stability: <24 hours	Send to Microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate.
BAL or Bronchial Washing	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each (75 ea/bag)	If Pneumocystis suspected, please write "pneumocystis" on specimen label and on paper requisition or comment in electronic order.	Room Temperature Stability: <8 hours	Send to microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate. Please write "Pneumocystis suspected" on specimen or on order.
Chlamydia and/or GC and/or Trichomonas NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification)	APTIMA specimen collection kit for Cervical/Urethral Swab:  Urine in Sterile Container:  Continued on next page	APTIMA swab kit:# 27427 Order by each Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Collection: Cervical/Urethral: Use swabs provided with kit. Use white swab for cleaning and discard. Collect sample with blue swab and break off swab in tube. Urine: Patient should not have urinated for at least one hour before collection. <u>Do not cleanse prior to collection.</u> Collect first 20 – 30 mL of urine stream (this is not a midstream collection). Continued on next page	Swab in collection kit vial: Room Temperature Stability: 30 days First-void urine in sterile cup: Refrigerate Stability: 24 hours	Repeat testing for cure is not recommended. When a cervical thin prep pap is also needed, collect the specimen for pap first, then collect Chlamydia and/or GC and/or Trich specimen, but do not use the white swab to cleanse (discard white swab). Collect sample with blue swab and break off swab into tube.

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continued Chlamydia and/or GC and/or Trich by NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification)	APTIMA specimen Urine collection kit: 	APTIMA urine kit: # 27428 Order by each	Urine with APTIMA collection kit: Patient should not have urinated for at least one hour before collection. <u>Do not cleanse prior to collection.</u> Collect first 20 – 30 mL of urine stream (this is not a midstream collection). Use kit pipette to add urine specimen to vial until urine volume is between black lines on vial.	Urine in kit vial: Room Temperature Stability: 60 days	
Chlamydia trachomatis/psittaci Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Cervical/Urethral swab or scraping. Fallopian tube aspirate Rectal Swab Conjunctival Swab Nasopharyngeal aspirate or swab Brochoalveolar lavage (BAL)	Refrigerate Stability: <48 hours	Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories
Chlamydia pneumoniae Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Brochoalveolar lavage Lung tissue Throat Swab Tracheal aspirate Nasopharyngeal aspirate/swab/wash	Refrigerate Stability: <48 hours	Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories

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Culture Type	Container	Item #	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Clostridium difficile toxin (C. Diff)	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately.	Refrigerate Stability: <24 Hours	Formed stools are not acceptable. Formed stool does NOT conform to the shape of the collection container.
Fungal Culture Fungal Smear	Sterile Container for most specimens. Swab acceptable for throat and vaginal specimens. 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Send Specimen in sterile container.	Room Temperature Stability: 24 hours	Fungal smear is ordered on BAL specimens for Pneumocystis. Please not on specimen or requisition when Pneumocystis is suspected.
Group B Strep Culture	BBL CultureSwab  or Lim Broth (both shown)	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack LIM Broth: Order by each from Laboratory	Per CDC recommendations, prenatal screening for vaginal and rectal Group B Streptococcal colonization should be done on all pregnant women at 35 – 37 weeks' gestation .	Room Temperature Stability: <48 hours	If susceptibility testing is indicated for penicillin allergic women notify the laboratory at 935-6123.

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Herpes Culture (for non-CSF specimens)	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Refrigerate Stability: 24 hours	CSF Specimens: Use CSF collection Kit.
Herpes simplex (HSV) by Molecular Detection, PCR	BBL Culture Swab or Sterile Container  	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each 75 ea/bag	Dermal, eye, throat, or genital sources: collect specimen using swab. Body fluids: place sample in sterile container	Refrigerate Stability: 7 days	Both HSV & VZ by PCR can be performed on one specimen. Testing is performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories
Influenza A/B Testing, Rapid Test	Influenza A/B & RSV collection kit:  Reverse side of swab kit: 	Influenza A/B & RSV Collection kit: Order by each from Laboratory	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen using Puritan UTM-RT swab provided. Place swab in Puritan UTM-RT Transport system vial. Break swab off at score line on shaft. Replace red cap tightly on transport system vial.	Refrigerate Stability: 4 days	Influenza A/B and RSV can be run on the same specimen Contact Microbiology for further information and swab required for PCR testing for Influenza A/B and/or Swine flu (H1N1).

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Culture Type	Container	Item #	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
MRSA Culture MRSA PCR	BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system 	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack	Insert swabs 1-2 cm into each nostril. Rotate the swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds. Apply slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose to help assure good contact between the swab and inside of the nose. Repeat for the 2 nd nostril using same swab. Remove cap from plastic transport tube and place swabs into tube.	Room Temperature Stability: 24 hours	MRSA culture takes 2 – 3 days. MRSA PCR results are available within 3 hours.
Mycoplasma Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Place swab or tissue in transport media.	Frozen ASAP	Primarily performed on OB patients. Placenta, etc. Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories
Ova and Parasite Screen	Stool Collection Kit Or Sterile Container 	Stool Collection kit: Order by each from Laboratory	Submit 5 mL of stool in sterile container or 5mL stool in PVA (red cap) and in Formalin preservative (pink cap) vials from Stool Collection kit.	Room Temperature Preserved specimens stable until date on container.	Initial stool screen is performed for Cryptosporidium and Giardia. To obtain full ova and parasite exam, call microbiology at 935-6123 to request.

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<p>Pertussis</p> <p>(Bordetella pertussis) Whooping Cough testing, Culture or PCR testing</p>	<p>Bordetella pertussis (Whooping cough) collection kit</p> 	<p>Bordetella pertussis (Whooping cough) Collection kit:</p> <p>Order by each from Laboratory</p>	<p>Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab using blue topped swab. Place the swab into the transport media with charcoal. Discard the empty tube</p>	<p>Room Temperature</p> <p>Stability: 36 hours</p>	<p>Two types of tests can be performed:</p> <p>B. pertussis Culture. Results available in 10 days</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>B. pertussis PCR. Results available in 2-3 days. Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratory.</p>
<p>Pinworm Prep</p>	<p>Pinworm collection paddle:</p> 	<p>Pinworm paddle:</p> <p>Order by each from Laboratory</p>	<p>Collect by pressing sticky side of paddle to perianal area. Collect at night or early morning, prior to bathing or using the toilet.</p>	<p>Room Temperature</p> <p>Stability: 4 days</p>	<p>Tape prep acceptable, but not preferred. If performing tape prep, ensure the tape is clear tape.</p>
<p>Pneumocystis Stain</p>	<p>Sterile Container.</p> 	<p>Sterile container: # 20479</p> <p>Order by each</p>	<p>BAL specimen preferred.</p> <p>Write "Pneumocystis" on specimen. This is a special request.</p>	<p>Room Temperature</p> <p>Stability: <8 hours</p>	<p>Order Fungal Stain and write "Look for pneumocystis" on requisition or comment in electronic order</p>

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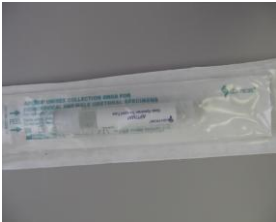


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Culture Type	Container	Item #	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Rotavirus Screen	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately	Refrigerate Stability: 48 hours	
RSV Testing	RSV (and Influenza A/B) collection kit:  Reverse side of swab kit: 	Influenza A/B & RSV Collection kit. Order by each from Laboratory	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen using Puritan UTM-RT swab provided. Place swab in Puritan UTM-RT Transport system vial. Break swab off at score line on shaft. Replace red cap tightly on transport system vial.	Refrigerate Stability: 4 days	Influenza A/B and RSV can be run on the same specimen
Sputum Culture	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Instruct patients to produce a deep cough specimen, attempting to minimize contamination with saliva. 1 st morning collection is usually most productive.	Room Temperature Stability: 12 hours	All sputum specimens are screened microscopically for acceptability.

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Throat Culture (Group A Strep Culture with or without Strep Screen)	BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system 	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack	Fresh swab of each tonsillar fossa, and the posterior pharynx, including any visible exudate from these areas. The swab should be obtained with some form of tongue depression to avoid lingual contamination.	Room Temperature Stability: 72 hours	A well-collected specimen may elicit a gag reflex and be unpleasant to the patient.
Trichomonas vaginalis by NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification)	APTIMA specimen collection kit for Cervical/Urethral Swab: 	APTIMA Unisex Swab kit: # 27427 Order by each	Collection: Cervical: Use swabs provided with kit. Use white swab for cleaning and discard. Collect sample with blue swab and break off swab in tube.	Swab in collection kit vial: Room Temperature Stability: 30 days	Repeat testing for cure is not recommended.
	Urine in Sterile Container: 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Urine: Patient should not have urinated for at least one hour before collection. <u>Do not cleanse prior to collection.</u> Collect first 20 – 30 mL of urine stream (this is not a midstream collection).	First-void urine in sterile cup: Refrigerate Stability: 24 hours	When a cervical thin prep pap is also needed, collect the specimen for pap first, then collect Chlamydia and/or GC and/or Trich specimen, but do not use the white swab to cleanse (discard white swab). Collect sample with blue swab and break off swab into tube.
	APTIMA urine transport kit: 	APTIMA Urine transport kit: # 27428 Order by each	Collect urine as described above. Use urine kit pipette to add urine specimen to vial until urine volume is between black lines on vial.	Urine transport vial: Room Temperature Stability: 30 days	

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Ureaplasma Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Place swab or tissue in transport media.	Frozen ASAP	Primarily performed on OB patients. Placenta, ect. Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Urine Culture	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Submit > 5 mL from a midstream, "clean-catch," random urine collection.	Refrigerate Stability: 24 hours	
Vaginal Wet Prep	Diamonds Media 	Diamonds Media: Order by each Request from Laboratory	Vaginal Collection	Room Temperature Stability: 12 hours	Test for: Yeast, Clue Cell (Bacterial Vaginosis), and Trichomonas vaginalis. Effective Oct 2013, Trich testing is by nucleic acid amplification – follow instructions for Chlamydia collection
Varicella Zoster Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Refrigerate Stability: 48 hours.	

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Varicella zoster (VZ) by Molecular Detection, PCR	BBL Culture Swab or Sterile Container  	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each 75 ea/bag	Dermal, eye, throat, or genital sources: collect specimen using swab. Body fluids: place sample in sterile container	Refrigerate Stability: 7 days	Both VZ & HSV by PCR can be performed on one specimen. Testing is performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories
Viral Culture – Virus name must be noted on specimen.	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Viral media transport kit: Order kits by each from Laboratory	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Refrigerate Stability: 48 hours	Specimens submitted for “viral culture” are not appropriate from most sources. The suspected agent (virus name) must be included in the request.
VRE Culture	BBL Culture Swab For Rectal swab or Sterile Container for Stool sample  	Swab: # 17737 Order by each 50 ea/pack Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each 75 ea/bag	Submit stool in sterile container or Obtain rectal swab specimen by inserting swab into rectum. Place swab into transport medium	Room Temperature Stability: Unpreserved stool: 1 hour Cary Blair media: 4 days	

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Fecal Leukocytes (WBCs)	Sterile Container 	Sterile container: # 20479 Order by each	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately	Refrigerate Stability: 8 hours	
Yersinia Culture	Cary Blair from Stool Kit. 	Stool Collection kit Request kit from Laboratory	Submit 5 mL of stool in sterile container (blue cap) or in Cary-Blair preservative vial (green cap) from Stool Collection kit.	Room Temperature Stability: Unpreserved stool: 1 hour Cary Blair: 4 days	Not included in Stool Culture. Order separately.