





Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

Munson Medical Center Inpatients Only





LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIMENS: Patient Name, Medical Record Number, Specimen Source, Collect Date/Time

Culture Type	Container	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Acid Fast Culture (Mycobacteria)	Sterile Container 	Sputum: >5 mL required. First morning specimen preferred. For blood, sodium heparin tube preferred. Lithium heparin acceptable. Do not centrifuge.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature. Refrigerate if delay.	Swabs are not appropriate specimens for AFB culture.
Aerobic Culture (Routine Bacterial Culture)	BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system – not acceptable for anaerobic cultures  Sterile Container 	Used for bacterial cultures. The following sources are accepted, but not limited to: Abscesses/Wound Arm Ear Eye Foot Surgical Specimens Throat Vaginal	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Tissue and fluid specimens preferred when possible. Material selected for culture must be from the actual site of infection, collected with a minimum of contamination from adjacent tissues, organs, or secretions.
Anaerobic Culture	BBL Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector 	The following sources are accepted, but not limited to: Abscesses Fluids Surgical Specimens Wound	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Tissue and Fluid is preferred over swab specimens to enhance the recovery of anaerobes. Anaerobic cultures are not performed on: catheter tips, mouth, vaginal, urine, sputum.

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Blood Culture Or Blood Culture, Fungus	1 set of blood culture bottles pictured. 	See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period.	Do not send with other specimens through the pneumatic tube. Room temperature. Do not refrigerate.	Send to Microbiology as soon as possible after collection. Do not refrigerate
Blood Culture Pediatric Patient	1 pediatric bottle 	See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period	Do not send with other specimens through the pneumatic tube Room temperature. Do not refrigerate.	Send to Microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate.
BAL or Bronchial Washing	Sterile Container 	If Pneumocystis suspected, please write "pneumocystis" on specimen label and on paper requisition or comment in electronic order.	Deliver to Lab ASAP. Do not send through the pneumatic tube system. Room Temperature	Send to microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate. Special procedures are performed when looking for Pneumocystis. Please write "Pneumocystis suspected" on specimen or on order.
Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture Enterovirus (CSF Only)	CSF collection kit 	Collect CSF in collection kit and transport to laboratory immediately. Tubes are pre-labeled 1- 4. Always collect tubes in order.	Deliver to Lab. Do not send through the pneumatic tube system. IMMEDIATELY transport to lab. Room Temperature	Send to microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate. Enterovirus is entered into powerchart as a separate order.

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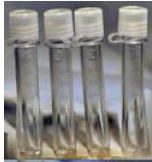



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Chlamydia and/or GC DNA probe	<p>Aptima specimen collection kit. Cervical/Urethral Swab.</p>  <p>Urine in Sterile Container</p> 	<p>Collection:</p> <p>Cervical/Urethral: Use swabs provided with kit. Use white swab for cleaning and discard. Collect sample with blue swab and break off swab in tube.</p> <p>Urine: Patient should not have urinated for at least one hour before collection. Do not cleanse prior to collection. Collect first 20 – 30 mL of urine stream.</p>	<p>Transport to lab ASAP.</p> <p>Room Temperature</p>	<p>Repeat testing for cure is not recommended.</p>
Chlamydia trachomatis/ psittaci culture	<p>M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma.</p> 	<p>Cervical/Urethral swab or scraping.</p> <p>Fallopian tube aspirate</p> <p>Rectal Swab</p> <p>Conjunctival Swab</p> <p>Nasopharyngeal aspirate or swab</p> <p>Brohchoalveolar lavage (BAL)</p>	<p>Transport to lab ASAP.</p> <p>Room Temperature</p>	<p>Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories</p>
Chlamydia pneumoniae Culture	<p>M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma.</p> 	<p>Brohchoalveolar lavage</p> <p>Lung tissue</p> <p>Throat Swab</p> <p>Tracheal aspirate</p> <p>Nasopharyngeal aspirate/swab/wash</p>	<p>Transport to lab immediately</p> <p>Room Temperature</p>	<p>Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories</p>

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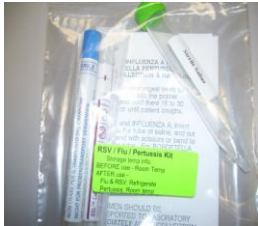



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Clostridium difficile toxin (C. Diff)	Sterile Container 	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Formed stools are not acceptable. Formed stool does NOT conform to the shape of the collection container.
Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture Enterovirus (CSF Only)	CSF collection kit 	Collect CSF in collection kit and transport to laboratory immediately. Tubes are pre-labeled 1- 4. Always collect tubes in order.	Deliver to Lab. Do not send through the pneumatic tube system. IMMEDIATELY transport to lab. Room Temperature	Send to microbiology as soon as possible. Do not refrigerate. Enterovirus is entered into powerchart as a separate order.
Fungal Culture Fungal Smear	Sterile Container for most specimens. Swab acceptable for throat and vaginal specimens. 	Send Specimen in sterile container.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	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)	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 .	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	If susceptibility testing is indicated for penicillin allergic women notify the laboratory at 935-6123.
Herpes Culture (for non-CSF specimens)	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature Refrigerate if delay in transport.	CSF Specimens: Use CSF collection Kit.

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Influenza A/B Testing	RSV / Influenza A / Bordetella pertussis collection kit 	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab using blue topped swab. Place the swab into the sterile saline container. Discard the transport media with charcoal.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Influenza and RSV can be run on the same specimen Swine flu testing is performed at MDCH on a limited select case basis. Contact Microbiology for further information.
MRSA Culture MRSA PCR	BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system 	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.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	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. 	Place swab or tissue in transport media.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Primarily performed on OB patients. Placenta, etc. Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories
Ova and Parasite Screen	Stool Collection Kit Or Sterile Container 	Submit 5 mL of stool in sterile container or in PVA and Formalin preservative vials from Stool Collection kit.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	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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Pertussis (Bordetella pertussis) Whooping Cough	RSV / Influenza A / Bordetella pertussis collection kit 	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab using blue topped swab. Place the swab into the transport media with charcoal. Discard the sterile saline container.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Two types of tests can be performed: B. pertussis Culture. Results available in 10 days -or- B. pertussis PCR. Results available in 2-3 days. Sent to Mayo Medical Laboratory.
Pinworm Prep	Pinworm Collection paddle 	Collect by pressing sticky side of paddle to perianal area. Collect at night or early morning, prior to bathing or using the toilet.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Tape prep acceptable, but not preferred. If performing tape prep, ensure the tape is clear tape.
Pneumocystis Stain	Sterile Container. 	BAL specimen preferred. Write "Pneumocystis" on specimen. This is a special request.	Do not send through pneumatic tube. Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Order Fungal Stain and write "Look for pneumocystis" on requisition or comment in electronic order
Rotavirus Screen	Sterile Container 	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	
RSV Testing	RSV / Influenza A / Bordetella pertussis collection kit 	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab using blue topped mini tipped swab. Place the swab into the sterile saline container. Discard the transport media with charcoal.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Influenza and RSV can be run from the same specimen

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Sputum Culture	Sterile Container 	Instruct patients to produce a deep cough specimen, attempting to minimize contamination with saliva. 1 st morning collection is usually most productive.	Transport to lab ASAP Room Temperature	All sputum specimens are screened microscopically for acceptability.
Stool Culture	Sterile Container or Stool Collection Kit 	Requests for Yersinia are a separate order in Powerchart Submit 5 mL of stool in sterile container or in Cary-Blair preservative vial from Stool Collection kit.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Stool culture pathogens include: <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , <i>Shiga toxin 1 and 2</i> <i>producing E. coli (E. coli o157)</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Vibrio</i> , <i>Aeromonas</i> , and <i>Plesiomonas</i> .
Throat Culture (Group A Strep Culture with or without Strep Screen)	BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system 	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.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	A well-collected specimen may elicit a gag reflex and be unpleasant to the patient.
Ureaplasma Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Place swab or tissue in transport media.	Transport to lab ASAP Room Temperature	Primarily performed on OB patients. Placenta, ect. Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Urine Culture	Sterile Container 	Submit > 5 mL from a midstream, "clean-catch," random urine collection.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature Refrigerate if transport delay.	

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Vaginal Wet Prep	Diamonds Media 	Vaginal Collection	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Test for: Yeast, Clue Cell (Bacterial Vaginosis), and Trichomonas vaginalis
Varicella Zoster Culture	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature Refrigerate if delay in transport.	
Viral Culture – Virus name must be noted on specimen.	M4 or M5 Transport Media for the transport of viruses, chlamydia, mycoplasma, and ureaplasma. 	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature Refrigerate if delay in transport.	Specimens submitted for “viral culture” are not appropriate from most sources. The suspected agent (virus name) must be included in the request.
VRE Culture	Stool in Sterile Container or Rectal Swab collected with BBL CultureSwab Collection and Transport system	Submit stool in sterile container or obtain rectal swab specimen by inserting swab into rectum. Place swab into transport medium	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	
Fecal Leukocytes (WBCs)	Sterile Container 	Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab immediately	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	
Yersinia Culture	Sterile Container or Cary Blair from Stool Kit. 	Submit 5 mL of stool in sterile container or in Cary-Blair preservative vial from Stool Collection kit.	Transport to lab ASAP. Room Temperature	Not included in Stool Culture. Separate order.