







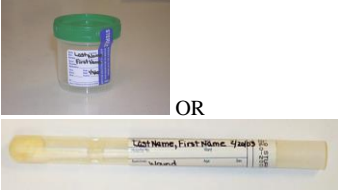



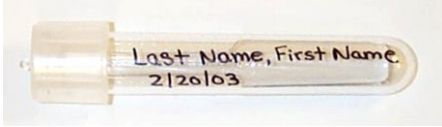

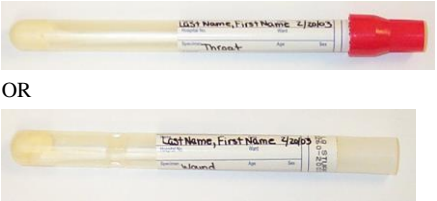








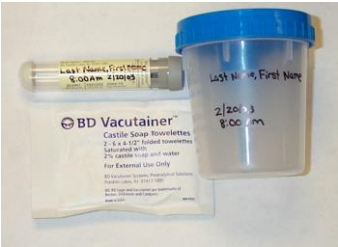



## MICROBIOLOGY/CLINICAL LABORATORY SPECIMEN INTEGRITY REQUIREMENTS

The quality and clinical relevance of laboratory results clearly depend on the appropriate collection, storage and transport of clinical specimens submitted for testing. The following easy reference table is for **most common test requests**. It lists important specimen integrity requirements and additional guidelines for specimen management.

CONTAINER	COLLECTION	TEMP/TIME RT=Room Temperature	REPLICA LIMITS	COMMENTS
AFB 	Sterile container; >2mL	4°/≤24HR	x3	Urine - First morning void. Sputum – 3 consecutive including 1 first morning.
ANAEROBE  OR 	Fluid/tissue in sterile container is optimal. BBL Culture Swab Plus with charcoal for surgical swabs if no other options (black cap w/red lettering)	RT/≤24HR	1/day per source	Unacceptable: throat, superficial sites, urine, vaginal, sputum, rectal.
BETA GRP B SCREEN 	Aerobic transport swab (white cap w/blue lettering).	RT/≤24HR	1/day	CDC recommends GBS screen culture at 35 weeks, includes enhanced broth culture. Recto/vaginal specimen recommended
BLOOD 	Blood culture bottles 5-10 mL/bottle Aerobic (blue)/Anaerobic (yellow)	35°/RT Transport to lab ASAP	At least 2 sets and no more than 3 sets per adult patient	Children require 1 pediatric culture bottle only. Inoculate with volume obtained. Anaerobic bottle not indicated.
BODY FLUID/TISSUES 	Specimens obtained by invasive procedure. Transport in sterile container	ASAP to lab, RT°	Not applicable	Swabs are not optimal for culture. Send fluid or tissue
C. difficile TOXIN ASSAY 	Fresh stool in sterile container.	4°/≤24HR	1/day	Do not send in preservative. Formed stool is unacceptable

CONTAINER	COLLECTION	TEMP/TIME RT=Room Temperature	REPLICA LIMITS	COMMENTS
CHLAMYDIA CULTURE 	Inoculate UTM (Universal Transport Medium-red cap) with flocked swab			Performed at ACM Global Laboratories
CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS/NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE AMPLIFIED PROBE				See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
FUNGUS 	Sterile container (fungal scrapings; hair, nail et ). Or swab (aerobic culturette – white cap ) of specific size	RT/≤24HR	1/day same source	Contact lab for dermatophyte media if direct plating is requested.
GC CULTURE 	Send aerobic transport swab for plating in lab.	Swab RT°	1/day same source	Culture for Neisseria gonorrhoeae. Do not expose specimens to temperatures below 25C.
HEPATITIS C PCR RNA (Quantitative, Qualitative Genotype)				See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
HERPES 				See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
OVA & PARASITE (either container) 	Fresh, dry, sterile container or Preserved – SAF (yellow top)			See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements

CONTAINER	COLLECTION	TEMP/TIME RT=Room Temperature	REPLICA LIMITS	COMMENTS
PINWORM 	Perianal sampling on a pinworm paddle.			See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
RAPID INFLUENZA/RSV PCR/ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA PANEL 	NP or Nasal Wash into UTM (Universal Transport Medium) red cap	4°/24HR must keep cold after collection	1/day	Tests for influenza AB/RSV, and other viral pathogens. Positives will be called
RAPID STREP 	1 aerobic transport containing 2 swabs (red cap w/blue lettering) or 2 aerobic transport swabs (white cap w/blue lettering)	RT/≤24HR	1/day	All negatives will be confirmed by culture
ROTAVIRUS 	Sterile container or rectal swab containing stool.			See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
SEROLOGY 	Serum gold top tube.	RT/24HR	1/day	Includes Mono and Procalcitonin
SPUTUM 	Sterile container >1ml.	4°/≤24HR	1/day	> 10 SECS indicates oral pharyngeal contamination.
STOOL (either container) 	Dry sterile container or stool transport: Carey Blair Media (green top); >2g ; <u>INDICATE IF BLOODY OR LIQUID</u>	Unpreserved 4°/24HR Preserved RT/96HR	1/day	Routine culture includes Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter and E. coli 0157:H7 If ruling out Vibrio or Yersinia, indicate on requisition.

CONTAINER	COLLECTION	TEMP/TIME RT=Room Temperature	REPLICA LIMITS	COMMENTS
				
THROAT 				See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
THROAT Nasosophygeal (if <u>B. pertussis</u> requested )				
URINE 	BD Urine Collection Kit grey top w/ preservative tube. Alternatively send sterile container.  *BD Urine Complete Collection Kit yellow top with preservative tube/red top with preservative	preserved RT/24HR unpreserved 4°≤24HR  *RT 48 /72 HR	1/day	If urinalysis is requested must send sterile cup along with preservative tube.  *Shake vigorously/invert 8-10 times Yellow for culture/red for urinalysis
UROGENITAL 	Aerobic transport swab (white cap with blue lettering).	RT/24HR	1/day	Alternatively use wire tip aerobic culturette (orange cap w/blue lettering). Do not expose to temperatures below 25° C
VAGINITIS/VAGINOSIS SCREEN				See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
VIRUS 	Collect with supplied flocked swab into UTM (Universal Transport Medium) red cap. This media may be used for viruses, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, and Ureaplasma culture			See ACM Global Laboratories for collection requirements
WOUND/ABSCESS 	Aerobic transport swab (white w/blue letters) or sterile container.	RT/24HR	1/day per source	Indicate site of collection.

**All collection supplies are available, call 922-LABS. Questions should be directed to Client Services at 922-1811.**