



ANAEROBIC CULTURE COLLECTION

All anaerobic specimens should be collected to minimize contamination with normal flora. Specimen collection by needle aspiration is recommended when possible. Specimens from the following sites are acceptable when submitted in the appropriate anaerobic transport media:

- Transtracheal aspirations
- Suprapubic urines from percutaneous suprapubic bladder
- Genital specimens from cul-de-sac aspiration, placenta, fallopian tube, septic abortion, or prostatic or seminal fluid
- Surgical specimens
- Exudates, aspirated pus from deep wound or abscesses
- Body fluids - normally sterile
- IUD

The following sites should not be cultured anaerobically because normal anaerobic flora is present:

- Note:** *If the following sources are submitted, they will be canceled with comment "Inappropriate specimen for anaerobic culture."*
- Throat and nasopharyngeal swabs
- Sputum and bronchoscopic specimens
- Feces and rectal swabs
- Voided or catheterized urines
- Vaginal or cervical specimens
- Catheter tips
- Specimens from sites contaminated with intestinal contents such as colostomy sites, draining pilonidal sinus, and traumatic perforation of the bowel
- Specimen collected from superficial skin sites using a swab