

Specimen Types

Ascites, joint fluid, pericardial, pleural.

NOTE: *When available*, 20-30 mls of specimen is preferred. If TB testing is also requested, another 10 mls is recommended.

Available Tests for Bacteria Cultures

Order only one of the following three tests for a bacteria culture:

- For anaerobic culture 1284 Cult-Anaerobic
Includes: Aerobic, Anaerobic & Gram stain
- If body fluid greater than or equal to 10 mls..... 1688 Cult-Body Fluid \geq 10 mL
Add request for Gram stain as needed.
Test # 1152 Smear-Gram stain
- If body fluid less than 10 mls..... 1690 Cult-Body Fluid <10 mL
Add request for Gram stain as needed.
Test # 1152 Smear-Gram stain

Materials Needed

1. Anaerobic transport tube and/or sterile screw cap container (body fluid kit available from Lab).
For anaerobic transport tube
 - a) Check out-date on anaerobic transport tube packaging before using; if outdated, return to Lab and obtain fresh transporters.
 - b) If before inoculation the transporter is a pink, blue or lavender color, do not use. The appearance of any of these colors indicates air exposure.
2. Sterile syringe and needle
3. Alcohol preps
4. Iodine tincture applicators

Specimen Collection

Anaerobic cultures are recommended -- see Anaerobic Culture for collection procedure.

1. Use a 70% isopropyl alcohol swab followed by a *Sepps* 2% iodine disposable swab to cleanse the puncture site as outlined below:
 - a) With an alcohol swab, cleanse the puncture site.
 - b) Wipe the rubbery cap of the anaerobic transport tube with an alcohol prep.
 - c) With a *Sepps* swab vigorously rub in a circular motion starting at the puncture site and extending out to cover a 3-inch circle for about 20-30 seconds duration. Allow iodine prep to dry for about one minute.
 - d) Do Not Palpate Area after Cleaning. Gloves must be worn while aspirating specimen.
2. Using a sterile syringe, aspirate specimen directly into syringe. 20-30 mls of specimen is preferred, another 10 mls is recommended for TB testing.
3. **For anaerobic cultures:**
 - a. Any air trapped in the syringe should be carefully expelled into an alcohol-saturated sponge.
 - b. Expel specimen from syringe into anaerobic tube.
 - c. Place additional 20 – 30 mls into a sterile screw cap container.
4. Place another 10 mls into a sterile screw cap container if TB culture requested.
5. Label specimen. Include specific source of body fluid on both the specimen and the request.
6. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP (within one hour). For off-site collection, refrigerate until transported.

For routine (aerobic only) cultures:

- a. Place in 20 – 30 mls into a sterile screw cap container.