

Specimen Types

Pus fluid

Materials Needed

1. Anaerobic swab transport system: obtain from [North Memorial Health Laboratory](#)
  - a) Check out-date on anaerobic transport packaging before using; if outdated, return to Lab and obtain fresh transporters.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 also Anaerobic Culture 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 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.
3. Any air trapped in the syringe should be carefully expelled into an alcohol-saturated sponge.
4. Expel specimen from syringe into anaerobic tube.
5. Label specimen and request with source of abscess or cellulitis. If this is from a surgical incision that has become infected include that information as part of the source.
6. Transport specimen to Laboratory within one hour. For off-site collection, transport ASAP.