MICROBIOLOGY

Labeling of Specimen

All specimens must have the following information:

- Patient's name, medical record number and location
- Date and time of collection
- Source / type of specimen
- Initials of collector

Order Entry/Request Slip

All Microbiology tests on inpatients are ordered through Power Chart Order Entry:

All Microbiology tests on outpatients are ordered through Centricity or submitted on BLUE request slips and have all of the sections filled out including:

- Patient's name, medical record number, location, sex and DOB
- Date and time of collection
- Specific source / type of specimen
- Specific tests requested
- Type of infection and/or organism expected, when appropriate

Transportation of Specimens

All specimens should be transported to the lab within one hour. Refrigerated specimens and specimens in transport media should be delivered as promptly as possible.

Special Transport Instructions

- Urine should be placed on wet ice or refrigerated if transport to the lab will be greater than one hour after collection.
- Stools for culture or Ova & Parasites should be placed in appropriate stool transport media if transport to the lab will be greater than one hour.
- Cultures for Anaerobes and CSF specimens should NEVER be placed on ice or refrigerated.
Instructions for Collection and Transport Systems:

Aerobic Collection and Transport

For information on the Collection and Transport of Aerobic and Anaerobic specimens, please use the following link to the Microbiology home page

Microbiology Specimen Collection Guidelines

Anaerobic Collection and Transport

For information on the Collection and Transport of Anaerobic Specimens, please use the following link to the Microbiology home page

Microbiology Specimen Collection Guidelines

Blood Collection and Transport

For information on Blood Collection and Transport, please use the following link to the Microbiology home page

Microbiology Specimen Collection Guidelines

The Following Criteria Are Used For The Rejection Of Specimens:

- Inadequate volume to perform test.
- Specimen inappropriate for test requested.
- Specimen submitted in a non-sterile container, or specimen that has leaked out of the container.
- Dry swab received for culture.
- Specimen in syringe with needle attached.
- Tissue or other specimen type submitted in formalin or other fixatives (except stool).
- Twenty-four hour collection of urine or sputum for bacterial, mycobacterial, or fungal culture.
- Urine received greater than 2 hours after collection without cold storage.
- Duplicate specimens (urine, stool, sputum, wound) from the same site for the same request on the same day of collection. Only one specimen will be processed for culture per day.
- Sputum contaminated with saliva as determined by Gram stain examination for squamous epithelial cells.
- Formed stool for C. difficile, bacterial culture, or ova & parasites.
- Stool for ova & parasites and/or culture ordered on in-patients hospitalized for more than 4 days.
- Swab received greater than 24-48 hours after collection, dependent upon swab type.
Unacceptable specimens are not discarded until physician or nurse has been notified. Unacceptable specimens may be processed if special circumstances do not allow obtaining a repeat specimen.
AN appropriate specimen quality comment will be added to the report if processed.