Laboratory Medicine Department

Culture Swabs- Guidelines

Revision 12/2/19

Collection kits will be distributed to offices. Please call the Laboratory with any questions 724-357-7160

1. **Red Cap Culture Swab** is to be used for the following:
   - CVIRRESP – Viral culture respiratory sources other than FLUAB
   - MRSA PCR anterior nares
   - Throat cultures and Strep screen cultures
   - Rapid Strep A - Throat cultures screening for Strep group A
   - Urethrogenital cultures.
   - Think RED for Rapid

   ![CultureSwab- Liquid Stuart, Double Swab]

   **Storage= RT (Room temp)**
   **Transport= RT within 24 hrs**

2. **Blue Cap Culture Swab** to be used for the following:
   - CWC - Wound specimen collection and transport for both aerobes and anaerobes.
   - WET or TRICH - ICR and OP WET PREPS
   - (Blue Cap) cannot be used for the Rapid Strep A and B testing

   ![CultureSwab- For wound, and skin. Amies Gel w/o Charcoal, Double Swab]

   **Storage= RT (Room temp)**
   **Transport= RT within 24 hrs**

3. **Green Cap Culture Swab** to be used for the following:
   - Urethral sampling, wound cultures as needed for ear, and eye cultures
   - Nasopharyngeal cultures
   - BPS- Bordetella PCR
     - Orange Amies Charcoal swab acceptable for BPS

   ![CultureSwab- Liquid Stuart, Soft Aluminum Wire]

   **Storage= RT (Room temp)**
   **Transport= RT within 24 hrs**
Memo: Culture Swabs- Guidelines

4. **M4 RT Liquid Media in Conical tube**
   - FLUAB (KIT)
   - **Storage:** RT (Room temp)
   - **Transport:** Refrig within 24hrs
   - Must order HSV and CVZV separately (separate swab and M4 transport for each test)
     - HSV: HSV PCR- Genital, dermal, ocular, throat, respiratory
     - CVZV: Varicella Zoster –Genital, dermal
   - **Storage:** RT (Room temp)
   - **Transport:** Refrig within 24hrs

5. **M4 RT Liquid Media in Conical tube**
   - UREAPLASMA
   - MYCOPLASMA - Ureaplasma, mycoplasma cultures.
   - **Storage:** Refrig
   - **Transport:** Refrig within 24hrs
MEMO: Culture Swabs - Guidelines

6. **HPV**: Collection Devices Per source:
   - HPV – Cervix/Vagina Only

   Thin Prep Pap Test Vial
   Cervical/Vaginal Collection Device

8. **CT/NG Xpert- CHAMYDIA/ GC PCR –**
   - CHLGCDNA - Chlamydia / Neisseria Gonorrhoeae DNA PCR
     - **FEMALE**
       1. Endocervical and vaginal swabs

       2. **Urine- 20-50 ml** of first stream (not clean catch). **No void 1hr prior to** specimen.
          - Sterile Cup
          - Urine-
          - Transport = **Refrig** after collection

     - **MALE (Urine only)**
       1. **Urine- 20-50 ml** of first stream (not clean catch). **No void 1hr prior** to specimen.
          - Sterile Cup
          - Transport= **Refrig** after collection

9. **GEN-PROBE APTIMA - CHLAMYDIA- EYE SOURCE only**
   Order CHLPCREYE

   Storage = RT (Room temp)
   Transport = RT or **Refrig**

   **CT/NG Xpert**: Cervical and Endocervical Swabs

   - **Storage**: RT (Room temp)
   - **Transport**: RT within 24hrs

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