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| C:\Users\mindyp\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\VBIRRK80\sp_medical_center_high_res.gif 600 E Main Street  Elma WA 98541 | Title: Microbiology Specimen Requirements – Capital Medical Center  Department: Laboratory  Total Number of Pages: 2 |
| Effective Date: Revised: |  |
| Approval:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Director  Author name/title: Don Biehl MT(ASCP) |  |

**Principle:**

Proper specimen collection and storage during transport are imperative to ensure that microbiology specimens are able to recover any potential pathogens when cultured. This will allow providers the best information possible to treat patients in a timely manner using the appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

All Microbiology will be performed at Capital Medical Center (CMC). For an in depth explanation of individual specimen types, consult the Capital Medical Center Microbiology Procedure Manual.

**Specimen:**

* **Body Fluids** – Sterile container, syringe, red top vacutainer, culturette, CSF collection tube, sterile urine cup. All body fluids are sent to CMC **STAT**.
* **Sputum** – 1-3 ml of a properly collected sputum or bronchial washing in a sterile container.
* **Urine** – Clean Catch Midstream, Catheterized, Cytoscopy, and Suprapubic tap are the only acceptable course for culture. Urine should be aliquoted to a Urine Preservative tube within one hour of collection.
* **Throat** – Collect in culturette with liquid Amies or Staurts transport media.
* **Yeast** – Submit on a culturette or in a sterile container.
* **Wound** – Submit in a culturette, source required. An **Abscess** or any suspected anaerobic infection requires that an anaerobic transport culturette.
* **Nasopharyngeal** – Minitip culturette or flocked swab in sterile culture tube.
* **GC Screen** – **Dacron swabs only,** cotton and calcium alginate swabs can be toxic to GC. Place swabs in Amies transport media.
* **Genital** – Culturettes or swabs in Amies transport media, See GC Screen above.
* **Eye** – Culturettes
* **Ear** – Culturettes
* **Blood Cultures** – BD aerobic and anaerobic or pediatric collection bottles.

**Storage:**

All cultures are held at room temperature prior to transport to CMC except blood cultures. Blood cultures are immediately placed in the incubator at 37C prior to transport to CMC.

**Transport:**

Create a Sight Batch From ML to CMC. Make a copy after all specimens are accounted for and place in the binder marked Micro Site Batches Log. Send LIS labels with the specimens to CMC.

* All cultures to be transported to the SPMC lab ASAP so ensure proper transport media and storage requirements are maintained prior to shipment to CMC
* All body fluids are shipped to CMC laboratory STAT for testing. Call a courier for STAT pickup.
* All specimens except body fluids are held in the laboratory and a courier will pick up twice daily Monday-Friday.
* Saturday and Sunday, if there are specimen, call a courier for pickup after Urgent Care closes for the day.

 Reviewed (No Changes):

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