

MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Specimen Type	Guidelines	Device and/or Minimum Volume	Transport	Comments
AFB CULTURE				
BLOOD	Yellow top SPS tube (black lettering on tube) Minimum vol.: 3 ml	Yellow top SPS tube (black lettering on tube) Minimum vol.: 3 ml	Keep at room temperature until transport to RRL.	Unacceptable: Clotted blood, Yellow top tube ACD Solution A, or any tube other than SPS.
BONE MARROW	Prepare puncture site as for surgical incision. Aseptically inject 1-3 ml of aspirate into heparin (dark green top) tube and invert several times to mix.	Dark green top tube Na or Li Heparin Minimum vol.: 1 ml	Keep at room temperature until transport to RRL.	As above.
BODY FLUID/ CSF	2-3 ml aliquot in sterile red top tube, anaerobic transport system, or CSF collection vial (refer to CSF in "Miscellaneous" section).	Minimum vol : 2ml	CSF: Hold at room temperature. Fluid: Refrigerate if transport delayed.	Unacceptable: Specimen received in non-sterile container.
SPUTUM	Three early morning specimens on consecutive days are recommended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prior to eating in AM, have patient rinse or gargle with water to remove superficial flora. ▪ Instruct patient to cough deeply to produce a lower respiratory specimen. ▪ Collect in sterile Falcon collection tube available from laboratory and refrigerate. ▪ Instruct patient to return each specimen to medical office lab 	Falcon Sputum Collection Kit - No more than 10 ml of specimen per Falcon tube	Refrigerate within 1 hour of collection. Tighten screw cap on Falcon tube to prevent leakage.	Unacceptable: Specimen received in non-sterile container.

AFB Collection Guidelines
Updated by Joanna Hughes
11/12/2012

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	immediately after collection.			

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STOOL	Collect no more than 10 ml into sterile container.	Sterile container	Refrigerate if delay in transport to laboratory.	An AFB smear will be performed on specimen and culture set up only if the smear is positive. Unacceptable: Stool in preservative.
URINE	Three early morning specimens on consecutive days are recommended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collection as described for routine culture. Collect specimen in a sterile screw cap container. ▪ Instruct patient to return each specimen to medical office lab immediately after collection. 	Sterile screw cap container	Refrigerate if delay in transport to laboratory.	Unacceptable: Pooled urine or specimen received in non-sterile container.
WOUND/ ASPIRATE/ TISSUE	Aspirate or tissue in sterile red top tube, capped syringe or anaerobic transport system. See Wound culture ("Other section) for proper collection technique.	Anaerobic transport system, red top tube or capped syringe (no needle)	Transport promptly to laboratory. Keep anaerobic transport system at room temp if transport delayed.	Unacceptable: Swab specimen, nonsterile or leaky containers.

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