



MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

There are several important points to keep in mind when collecting specimens for microbiological examination. Your adherence to general guidelines and specific instructions will greatly enhance the quality of results you receive.

General Guidelines:

1. Some cultures require the use of specified transport media or containers. Obtain from the laboratory before specimen is collected.
2. Label all specimens with patient name, date of birth, date and time of collection (label swabs directly, not on the outer envelope).
3. Collection containers should be closed securely to prevent leaking during transit. Do NOT put patient labels on specimen covers. Put them on the side of the container.
4. Minimize transport time. Return all specimens to laboratory as soon as possible.
5. Transport all specimen types in biohazard bags. Slip paperwork accompanying specimens into the outer pouch of the bag, not inside the bag with the specimen.
6. Supply the exact source and anatomical site of the specimen. Examples: abscess, right arm; or skin/surface wound, left leg; or deep wound, buttocks.
7. Specimens should be obtained before the administration of antibiotics. (If this is not possible, please note antibiotics patient is taking).