

The Right Swab for the Job

Microbiology Testing (Bacteria/Fungus):

BEST option for aerobic, anaerobic and fungal cultures:

Unpreserved, direct specimen in sterile container.



Sterile Cup/Sterile Syringe

BEST for culture if the specimen can be expressed or tissue can be collected. Use these for tissue, body fluids, pus, or drains. Can do fungal and/or AFB cultures on these specimens.

If using syringe, remove the needle and securely cap before transport (White screw top preferred).

When a swab must be used: use eSwab!



No. 55147 eSwab with Transport Media, small tip (green top)

No. 10917 eSwab with Transport Media (white top)

Use these when a swab must be used for bacterial or yeast cultures and screens and Group B Strep.

Examples: throat, rectal, wound, nares/axilla/groin for MRSA screening.

Use for aerobic or anaerobic bacterial or yeast culture. DO NOT use for mold (fungal) or AFB culture.

Bacterial Vaginosis Stain



Send an eSwab (replaces wet prep testing).

Rapid Strep and Strep Cultures: send 2 swabs!



1 polyester fiber-tipped applicator (Lawson 66873)

After sample collection, place swab back in paper package.

Rapid Strep/Strep Culture: send 2 swabs!

1 Copan eSwab (Lawson 10917) After sample collection, break off shaft at red indicator line, put swab in the provided media tube and screw cap on.

Molecular Viral Testing:

Direct specimen
(2 mL minimum or swab in M6 media)



Sterile Cup (no syringe)

Can be used for straight specimen or tissue.

No. 59024 Sterile Swab Applicator Tip flocced with nylon fiber

No. 63252 Sterile Swab Applicator Tip flocced with nylon fiber, nasopharyngeal,

And No. 64758 M6 Transport Media

Swabs for viral testing MUST be sent in M6 media.

Molecular Testing (Genprobe PCR only):



No. 46871 Gen-Probe Aptima Unisex Swab

For GC/chlamydia and Trichomonas PCR.

See lab test catalog for correct blood tube or container for other PCR testing.

Urine Testing:



No. 364957 BD Vacutainer Urine Cup Kit
Use Urine Cup to collect specimens. Transfer urine to appropriate tubes. Discard urine cup – DO NOT SEND TO LAB.

SEND ALL THREE! (for possible add-on tests):
Clear Top Tube (not included in kit) Urine pregnancy, urine chemistries, urine toxicology and miscellaneous sendouts – Refer to online test catalog for minimum volumes.
Red/Yellow Speckled Top Urinalysis only, minimum volume 7mL (mix by inversion 8-10 times).
Urine cultures: Gray top tube, minimum volume 3mL (mix by inversion 8-10 times).