

CENTEGRA CLINICAL LABORATORIES
McHenry/Woodstock, Illinois

STERILE BODY FLUIDS

SUPPLIES:

Needle and syringe
Sterile glass or plastic container
Anaerobic Collection System, if needed

SPECIMEN CRITERIA:

1. Swabs will not be accepted.
2. Submit as large a specimen sample as possible.
3. A small amount of heparin may be added to fluids which are likely to coagulate.

PROCEDURE:

1. Normally sterile body fluids are usually collected via percutaneous needle aspiration. It is essential that the overlying skin be disinfected thoroughly before the aspiration is performed and that the collection procedure itself be done by strict aseptic technique.
 - a. Clean the needle puncture site with alcohol, and disinfect it with an iodine solution to prevent introduction of specimen contamination or infection of patient.
 - b. Aseptically perform percutaneous aspiration with syringe and needle to obtain pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, or synovial fluid.
2. Specimens obtained by needle aspiration should be transferred to a sterile tube or anaerobic transport vial prior to transport to the laboratory. If there is little material in the syringe, draw a small amount of nonbacteriostatic 0.85% saline or sterile broth through the syringe and then transfer to a sterile tube. Alternatively, a protective device may be used to remove the needle and the syringe may be capped with a sterile cap prior to transporting it to the laboratory. **DO NOT TRANSPORT NEEDLES TO THE LABORATORY.**

TRANSPORT:

1. Transport body fluid specimens immediately to the laboratory in sterile containers.
2. If anaerobes are suspected, transport specimen Anaerobe Collection System, or immediately in a glass or plastic container. Refer to instructions for Anaerobe Culture Collection.
3. **DO NOT** refrigerate specimens.

REJECTION CRITERIA:

1. Collect prior to antimicrobial therapy for greatest diagnostic sensitivity.
2. Do not submit specimens from drains after they have been infused with antimicrobial agents.
3. Fluids received on swabs for aerobic culture.
4. Invasively collected specimens in leaky containers must be processed, but alert the physician of the possibility of contamination.