

ELLIOT HOSPITAL LABORATORY

Collection Requirements and Acceptability for Microbiology Specimens

Page 1 of 4

Revised: Aug 2016

CULTURE (ORDER CODE)	SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION (SOURCE CODE)	COLLECTION DEVICE		TRANSPORT	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
<u>Abscess:</u> (CWND)	Abscess – note the anatomical site where the abscess is located.	Tissue or fluid is <u>superior</u> to a swab. Aerobic (red) swabs are acceptable although not preferable.		Most orgs will survive for 24-48 hrs, but fastidious orgs may only survive up to 24 hours.	Body site <u>must be specified</u> . Clean and debride area before specimen collection.
<u>Blood:</u> (CBL or CBLA)	Blood (BLD); 8-10 mL blood to each bottle of set. 1-3mLs blood in a Pedi bottle.	Set of blood culture bottles with resin (Plus Aerobic & Lytic Anaerobic). Pedi bottles are reserved for pedi pts. Adults must have full sets of bottles drawn. Note site of draw or line draw on bottles		Transport immediately to lab. Bottles must be loaded to blood culture instrument within 2 hours of draw (acceptable up to 4 hours).	See specific procedure for timing and number of sets of blood cultures to be collected. Line draw bottle set must have a venous draw set collected at the same time.
<u>Body Fluids:</u> (CBF) KOH Prep (KHP)	Pleural fld (PLFL), Peritoneal fld (PERFL), Pericardial fld (PERI), Ascitic fld (ASFL), Synovial fld (SYN), Amniotic fld (AMFL).	Sterile screw top container or capped syringe without the needle or Port-A-Cul transport.	Must be received in the lab within 24 hours of collection, held at room temperature.	At least 1 ml for bacterial culture, at least 3 mls for bacterial, fungal and TB culture.	
<u>Catheter Tip:</u> (CCTIP)	Central line, Intravenous catheter (TIP)	Submit tip in sterile screw top container. No preservative.		Transport directly to the department so that the tip does not dry out.	Acceptable catheters: central, CVP, Swan-Ganz, Hickman, peripheral, arterial.
<u>Cerebral Spinal Fluid:</u> (CCSF)	Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)	Sterile screw capped tube, preferably 3 rd tube collected.		Must be delivered to the dept. immediately after collection.	Never refrigerate CSF for culture.
<u>Chlamydia and GC</u> <u>DNA probe: (STD)</u> Chlamydia only (CLAMT) GC only (GCT)	Vaginal (VAG), Cervical (CERV), Urethral (URTH), First Catch Urine (DIRTY), Pap Vial (PAPV)	Gen-Probe specimen collection kit. Insert one swab only (blue) into the transport media, or submit a first voided urine specimen. Can also be done off ThinPrep Pap vial.		Swabs: 60 days @ 2-30°C; Pap vial transport: 14 days @ 15-30°C; Urine in GenProbe transport: 30 days @ 2-30°C. 1 st void urine in cup ≤ 24 hrs at RT°	If no swab or 2 swabs are placed in the transport media, the sample is unacceptable. Clean void urines are not acceptable for STD testing.
<u>Ear, Eye:</u> (CRES)	Fluid, scraping, or swabbed area from eye (EYE) or ear (EAR)	Sterile tube or Aerobic (red) swabs ; can use a mini-tip (green) for pedi specimens. GenProbe for the detection of Chlamydia in eye only, using Aptima unisex device.		Up to 24 hours at room temperature.	Chlamydia GenProbe from eye (or other miscellaneous source) is a send out test.
<u>Gastrointestinal System:</u> (CSTO)	Stool for Culture (STOL)	Unpreserved stool submitted in a screw top container, refrigerated; or place stool in preservative (Orange Protocol C&S preservative vial.)		For unpreserved stool specimen, submit within 2 hours of collection, held refrigerated. Preserved stool, submit within 48 hours at RT or refrigerated.	One specimen submitted in a 24 hour period is acceptable. For inpatients, spec for culture and/or O&P must be submitted within 3days of admission.
Full Ova & Parasite (AFOAP)	Stool for ova and parasites (STOL)	Place in Parasep-SF (green transport vial)		Submit vial within 90 days. For unpreserved specimen, submit within 1 hour of collection, held refrigerated.	AFOAP is a reference lab send out test.
Ova & Parasite screen (OAPS)	Screen for Crypto/Giardia antigen (STOL)	Orange Protocol C&S preservative vial.			Do not over- or under-fill the parapak device. Use fill line on side of device to measure.

ELLIOT HOSPITAL LABORATORY
Collection Requirements for Microbiology Specimens

Page 2 of 4

CULTURE (ORDER CODE)	SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION (SOURCE CODE)	COLLECTION DEVICE	TRANSPORT	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
<u>Gastrointestinal system</u> (cont.): GC Culture only (GC)	Rectal swab (RESW)	Aerobic (red) swabs.	≤ 12 hours at room temperature.	Swab submission is for the recovery of gonorrhea only. Swab is not acceptable for culture or O&P.
Gram stain only (GSD)	Stool for White Blood Cells (STOL) (same as ordering a Gram stain)	Unpreserved stool only submitted in a screw top container, refrigerated.	Submit unpreserved stool within 2 hours of collection, held refrigerated.	
Pinworm (PNWM)	Pinworm preparation collected from anal opening. (PIN)	Must submit Pinworm paddle; first morning collection best.	Submit as soon as possible.	Paddle can be obtained from the laboratory.
<u>Genital Tract, Female:</u> (CGEN)	Cervical (CERV), Vaginal (VAG), Urethral (URTH), Amniotic fluid (AMFL)	Aerobic (red) swabs for culture and Gram stain.	Most organisms will survive for 24-48 hours, but fastidious orgs may only survive for 24 hours.	<i>N. gonorrhea</i> may not survive longer than 24 hrs in transport. Submit within 12 hrs.
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> Nucleic Acid Amplification (TVNAA)	Vaginal (VAG), Cervical (CERV), Pap Vial (PAPV)	Gen-Probe specimen collection kit. Insert one swab only (blue) into the transport media. ThinPrep Pap vial also acceptable.	Swabs: 60 days @ 2-30°C; Pap vial transport: 14 days @ 15-30°C	If no swab or 2 swabs are placed in GenProbe transport, the sample is unacceptable. Urine is not acceptable.
Wet Prep (TRKP)	Cervical (CERV), Vaginal (VAG)	Aerobic (red) swabs ; looking for Trichomonas and yeast.	Trichomonas may not survive beyond 24 hours; best submitted within 1 hour, optimal ≤ 10 min.	
KOH Prep (KHP)	Cervical (CERV), Vaginal (VAG)	Aerobic (red) swabs ; Looking for yeast only.		
GC Culture only (GC)	Cervical (CERV), Vaginal (VAG)	Aerobic (red) swabs ; for the detection of gonorrhea only.	Optimal, submit within 12 hours at room temperature.	
Group B Strep Screen on prenatal patients (CVAGB)	Vaginal/Rectal swab (VAGRE)	Aerobic (red) swabs for Streptococcus Group B screen only.	Up to 24 hours at room temp.	For 35-37 week prenatal screen.
<u>Genital Tract, Male:</u> (CGEN)	Rectal swab (RESW), urethral (URTH), semen (SEM), penile drainage (DRNG —specify), penis (PNI)	Mini-tip culturette (green) or aerobic (red) swabs for Gram stain and culture. If mini-tip swab is collected, submit 2 for culture and Gram stain.	Most organisms will survive for 24-48 hours, but fastidious organisms may only survive for 24 hours.	<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> may not survive longer than 24 hours in transport. Optimal, submit within 12 hours of collection.
GC Culture only (GC)	Same as above	Mini-tip culturette or aerobic (red) swabs for the detection of gonorrhoeae only.	Optimal, submit within 12 hours at room temperature.	
Wet Prep (TRKP)	Male Urethral (URTH)	Mini-tip culturette (green) ; looking for Trichomonas and yeast.	Trichomonas may not survive beyond 24 hours; best submitted within 1 hour, optimal ≤ 10 min.	

ELLIOT HOSPITAL LABORATORY
Collection Requirements for Microbiology Specimens

Page 3 of 4

CULTURE (ORDER CODE)	SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION (SOURCE CODE)	COLLECTION DEVICE	TRANSPORT	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
<u>Respiratory Cultures:</u> (CRES)	Expectorated sputum (SPEX) Induced sputum (SPIN) Tracheal or endotracheal aspirate (TASP) Bronchial washing (BRWA) Bronchial brush (BRBR) Lung aspirate (ASP) or biopsy (BX)	Sterile screw capped container. Sterile screw capped container. Sterile screw capped container or trap. Sterile screw capped container for culture. Submit brush in sterile container. Sterile screw capped container.	Sputum, aspirates, and washings should be delivered within 2 hours of collection. Can be stored in refrigerator for up to 24 hours. For expectorated sputum, best to collect first morning deep cough specimen <i>after</i> mouth wash or gargle.	Legionella culture is a reference lab send out. <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> and <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i> are send out cultures and must be submitted in M5 media, which is supplied by the laboratory.
<u>Group A Strep Screen:</u> (SRS)	Throat (THRT); or rectal (RESW) on children.	Aerobic (red) swabs.	Up to 24 hours at room temp.	Specimen is screened for β -hemolytic Strep, primarily Group A Streptococcus.
<u>Tissue:</u> (CWND)	Tissue from any body site (Site <u>must be specified</u> or specimen cannot be processed).	Sterile screw capped container for culture. Submit tissue in a few drops of sterile saline to keep tissue moist.	Up to 24 hours at room temp.	Submit to lab as soon as possible to avoid drying out. Always submit as much tissue as possible. Must request TB or fungus culture <u>separately</u> .
<u>Urine:</u> (CUR) (CYSTO) (CURPRG)	Clean catch (URNE), Catheterized (CATH), Suprapubic aspirate (SURNC), Cystoscopic (UCYS) Order bladder washings (BLAD) as a Culture Body Fluid (CBF) Clean catch urine (URNE)	Urine culture tube with preservative must be minimally half full. If unable to fill, send urine refrigerated. Optimal specimen is urine placed in preservative within one hour after collection.	Preserved urine is acceptable for up to 72 hours at room temperature. Refrigerated urine is acceptable up to 24 hours. Unrefrigerated urine must be processed by lab within 1 hour, or it is unacceptable.	Must submit specific request for TB culture. Foley catheter urines are <u>NOT</u> acceptable for culture. CURPRG is for pregnant women only; looking for Group B Strep.
<u>Wounds:</u> Superficial wound (CWDS) Deep wound (CWND)	Skin lesions (LES), Lacerations, Superficial Lesions, Sores Abscesses (ABSC) Soft tissue biopsy (BX) Deep lesions (LES) – specify site Bone or Cartilage (BONE) Punch skin biopsy (BX)	Aerobic (red) swabs. Must specify source. Tissue or pus preferred or Aerobic (red) swabs. Must specify source.	Most organisms will survive for 24-48 hours, but fastidious organisms may only survive for 24 hours.	Clean/debride area around superficial wound, and then touch the infected area only with the swab to avoid contamination of normal skin flora. Wounds on the outside of the body are classified as “Superficial” and inside the body as “Deep”.

ELLIOT HOSPITAL LABORATORY
Collection Requirements for Microbiology Specimens

Page 4 of 4

MRSA screen by PCR (MRSAS)	For nares screening only.	COPAN Aerobic (red) swabs.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	Swab both nares with both swabs. 1 hour turn around time.
SA Nasal Complete (SACOMP)	For nares screening only.	COPAN Aerobic (red) swabs.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	Swab both nares with both swabs. 1 hour turn-around time.
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> By PCR (CDIFEP)	Soft, unformed or liquid stool <u>only</u> . Colon washings not acceptable. Patient must be > 2 yrs old.	Refrigerated stool specimen in sterile screw capped container. Preserved specimens are not acceptable.	Specimen may be stored refrigerated (2-8°C) for up to 5 days or at RT° if received & tested within 24 hours.	Formed stools are unacceptable, submit only 1 stool for testing. 1 hour turn-around time.
Group B Strep by PCR (GBSPCR)	Vaginal/Rectal swab	COPAN Aerobic (red) swabs.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	For patients in L&D with no prenatal Group B Strep status Not to be used for 35-37 week screens. <1 hr turn-around time; Negatives reflex to CVAGB cult.
Enterovirus by PCR (ENTPCR)	Cerebrospinal (CSF) fluid; minimum 1mL, unspun.	Sterile screw capped container.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	< 3 hours turn-around time.
Influenza A & B virus by PCR (FLUPCR)	Nasopharyngeal swab in M5 transport media or ≥ 1 mL NP washing.	M5 transport media with NP swab or sterile screw capped container with NP wash.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	< 1.5 hours turn-around time.
Rapid Tests: Rapid Strep (RSTR)	Throat (THRT)	Aerobic (red) swabs.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	≤ 1 hour turn-around time.
Rapid Influenza virus antigen (FLUAB)	NP swab or NP washings	M5 transport (red topped tube with pink fluid) with NP swab, or sterile screw capped container with NP wash.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	≤ 1 hour turn-around time.
Rapid RSV antigen (RSV)	NP swab or NP washings (use sterile saline)	Sterile screw capped container with NP wash.	Transport immediately to lab for processing.	≤ 1 hour turn-around time.
Rapid <i>Strep pneumoniae</i> Antigen (SPAGG)	Urine or CSF. Must specify source.	Urine in sterile screw capped container or ≥ 1 mL CSF in sterile screw capped container.	Transport immediately to lab. Transport urine ≤ 24 hours at RT or 14 days refrigerated. Transport CSF ≤ 24 hours at RT or 7 days refrigerated.	≤ 1 hour turn-around time. Rapid <i>Strep pneumoniae</i> antigen performed on CSF will be followed with a CSF culture.
Rapid <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> Antigen (LEGU)	Urine only	Urine in sterile screw capped container	Transport immediately to lab. Transport urine ≤ 24 hours at RT or 14 days refrigerated.	≤ 1 hour turn-around time.

