

Health Care Provider Collection Instructions

Eye Culture

Purpose

These collection instructions are for the health care provider to collect eye specimens.

Collection Device

Culturette - Copan Gel Amies Single Plastic Swab



Collection Instructions

1. Eye swabs should be collected prior to the application of topical anesthetic.
2. Cleanse the skin around the eye with sterile cotton and saline.
3. Swab the affected area. If both eyes require culture, use a separate swab for each eye.
4. Return the swab to the plastic sleeve and close firmly.

Labelling Instructions

Label the specimen and requisition with the following information:

- Patient's full name (first and last name)
- Date of birth or Personal Health Number (PHN)
- Specific anatomic site (e.g. Right lacrimal duct, pus, right or left eye)
- Date and time of collection

The following specimen labelling errors will result in specimen rejection:

- Specimen is received unlabeled, incompletely labeled, or illegibly labeled.
- The identifiers on the specimen label do not match the identifiers on the accompanying requisition.

Storage/Transport Instructions

1. Place the specimen in the bag and securely close. Fold any paperwork and place in the external pocket of the specimen transport bag.
2. Store at room temperature and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. Delays may affect test results.