


Microbiology and Miscellaneous Specimen Handling and Collection Instructions

Test Required	Specimen	Notes	Storage Requirements
>> Chlamydia/GC Nucleic Acid Testing	Swab cervix or urethra	Use Aptima® unisex swab for Chlamydia and GC testing. A single swab is used to test for Chlamydia and GC. Clearly indicate the specimen site.	Room temperature
	Swab - vagina	Specific vaginal swab used for physician or patient self-collected specimen	Room temperature
Chlamydia/GC Nucleic Acid Testing	Urine	Requires specific patient preparation / instructions to collect a first-void urine specimen. A single specimen is used to test for Chlamydia and GC.	Refrigerate immediately
Culture – Routine Bacterial	Swab	Please specify 'source' and diagnosis for all swabs. If fungal culture also requested please submit a separate specimen.	Room temperature
>> Culture - Anaerobic	Anaerobic swab kit	Special anaerobic swab and transport container	Room temperature
Herpes – Culture	Swab	Submit BCCDC Herpes swab with a completed BCCDC requisition.	Refrigerate immediately
Joint/Synovial Fluid Analysis	Fluid	Collect fluid and process following the instructions in the LifeLabs Synovial/Joint Fluid Collection Kit.	Room temperature
Pertussis – Culture	Nasopharyngeal swab	Special collection kit required from BCCDC. Submit With a completed BCCDC requisition.	Refrigerate immediately
Semen Analysis	Semen	Specimen requires specific patient preparation/instructions. Please send patient to laboratory.	Room temperature
Sputum Culture	Sputum	First morning specimen preferred.	Refrigerate
Stool – <i>Clostridium difficile</i> (Cdiff)	Stool in empty sterile container.	Specimen requires specific patient preparation / instructions. Please send patient to laboratory.	Refrigerate immediately
Stool culture	Stool in Cary Blair liquid	Specimen requires specific patient preparation / instructions. Please send patient to laboratory.	Refrigerate
Ova and Parasite (O&P) Stool for WBC	Stool in SAF preservative	Specimen requires specific patient preparation / instructions. Please send patient to laboratory.	Room temperature
Stool - FIT (Fecal Immunochemical Occult Blood Test)	Stool – applied to appropriate collection apparatus	Specimen requires specific patient preparation/ instructions. Please send patient to laboratory.	Refrigerate
Urine Culture	Urine in Boric Acid preservative tube	Requires specific patient preparation / instructions for collection of a midstream urine specimen. Please send patient to laboratory.	Room temp or Refrigerate
	Urine in sterile container		Refrigerate immediately
Urine - Pregnancy Test	Urine	First morning specimen or random specimen.	Refrigerate.
Urine – Routine Urinalysis	Urine	Fresh random urine collection. A minimum amount of 12 mLs is required.	Refrigerate immediately
Vagina - Initial presentation	Swab	Stained smear for Yeast & Bacterial Vaginosis (BV).	Room temperature
	2 nd swab.	Trichomonas test performed when requested.	
Vagina – Recurrent/Chronic	3 Swabs (one each for smear, culture & Trichomonas)	Stained smear for Yeast and BV. Yeast culture, Trichomonas test and Genital culture.	Room temperature
Vaginal-anal (Group B Strep screen only)	Swab	Group B Streptococcus screen only	Room temperature

- Label all specimens clearly with the patient first and last name, DOB, source (if applicable) and the date collected.
- All specimens should be forwarded for processing on the collection date.
- If there are any delays, contact the laboratory.

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