

CULTURE TYPE	ORDER CODE	COLLECTION CONTAINER	TRANSPORT	LIMITS	TAT
Anaerobic	Included in SURG, BFCGS, WNDCGS	Blue top swab	Room temp.		7 days
Actinomycetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEVC – for IUD • Other sources will be processed on Anaerobic Culture. 	IUD	<24 hrs refrigerated	Include “Look for actinomycetes” in the comments	14 days
Bacterial Vaginosis Panel	BVDNA	BD Affirm Collection Kit	<72 hrs room temp.	Must collect on BD Affirm kit	STAT – 2hrs
Blood (Includes gram stain on positive bottles)	BC	Bactec bottles <i>10-20mL Aer/Ana bottles</i> <i>1-3mL Pedi bottle</i>	<72 hrs room temp.	2 sets per 24 hours Do NOT refrigerate	5 days
Body fluid (Includes gram stain)	BFCGS	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.	2mL minimum	5 days
Catheter Tip	CTIPC	Sterile screw top container	<24hrs refrigerated	Foley catheters are unacceptable	2 days
CSF (Includes gram stain)	CSFCGS	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated		5 days
Ear (Includes gram stain)	EARC	Blue top swab or aspirate in sterile container	<24 hrs room temp.		2 days
Eye (Includes gram stain)	EYEC	Red or blue top swab	<24 hrs room temp.		5 days
Fungal-Fluid/Tissue/Biopsy (Includes fungal smear)	FUNCR	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.	Do NOT refrigerate; swabs are not recommended	4 weeks

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Fungal- Hair/Skin/Nails (Includes fungal smear)	FUNSKCSM	Scrapings-enough to cover the head of a thumbtack- in a sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.	Do NOT refrigerate; swabs are not recommended	4 weeks
Fungal Blood	FUNBC	Isolator tube	STAT	Do NOT refrigerate	4 weeks
Genital (Includes gram stain)	GENC	Red or blue top swab	<24 hrs room temp.	Do NOT refrigerate	3 days
Group A Strep Perianal	STGAC	Red top swab	<24 hrs room temp.		2 days
Group B Strep	STGBC	Red or blue top swab	<24 hrs refrigerated		3 days
MRSA-Nares/Rectum	MRSAC	Red or blue top swab	<24 hrs room temp.		2 days
Nocardia (includes smear)	NOCCSM	Sterile screw top container OR Red top swab	<24 hrs refrigerated		14 days
Peritoneal Dialysate	PDIALC	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated		5 days
Respiratory (Includes gram stain)	RESPC	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated	1mL minimum	2 days
Sputum (Includes gram stain)	SPUTCGS	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated	1mL minimum	2 days
Stool	STOOLC	Orange top Parapak OR sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.- Parapak OR <24 hrs refrigerated-sterile container	1 sample/day Diapers and leaky containers will be rejected. In-patient specimens will not be accepted after 3 days without prior consultation.	3 days
Surgical biopsy/tissue (Includes gram stain)	SURG	Sterile screw top container with sterile moistened gauze	Refrigerated	Do NOT place in culturette. Do NOT add fixative or formalin.	5 days
Throat	THRC	Red or blue top swab	<24 hrs room temp.	1 sample/day Cotton swabs or wooden shafts will be rejected	2 days

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Urine	URC	Sterile screw top container or Urine preservation system	<24 hrs refrigerated	1 sample/day	18 hours
Vibrio	VIBC	Orange top Parapak OR sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.- Parapak OR <24 hrs refrigerated-sterile container	1 sample/day Diapers and leaky containers will be rejected	2 days
VRE	VREC	Sterile screw top container OR Red top swab	<24 hrs refrigerated-container OR <24 hrs room temp.- swab		2 days
Wound (Includes gram stain)	WNDCGS	Red or blue top swab OR aspirate in sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.		2 days
Yersinia	YERC	Orange top Parapak OR sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.- Parapak OR <24 hrs refrigerated-sterile container	1 sample/day Diapers and leaky containers will be rejected	2 days

MICROSCOPIC TEST	ORDER CODE	COLLECTION CONTAINER	TRANSPORT	LIMITS	TAT
Gram Stain	GS	Sterile screw top container OR swab			1 hour
KOH	KOH	Sterile screw top container OR swab	<24 hrs room temp.		24 hrs Monday-Friday
Pinworm	PIN	Pinworm collection device	<24 hrs room temp.		24 hrs Monday- Friday

RAPID TEST	ORDER CODE	COLLECTION CONTAINER	TRANSPORT	LIMITS	TAT
Giardia/Cryptosporidium	GIACRYAG	Pink and gray Parapaks	<24 hrs	Diapers and leaking containers will be rejected	1 day
Rotavirus	ROTAAG	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated		1 hour
Occult blood	OCBT	Sterile screw top container or inoculated Hemocult cards	Container- <24 hrs refrigerated Cards- <10 days	1 sample/day	1 hour
Group A Strep	STREPAPC	Red top swab	Room temp. STAT	Do not use swabs with cotton tips or wooden shafts.	1 hour
Shiga Toxin	STOOLSHI	Sterile screw top container	<24hrs refrigerated		2 days
Vaginitis Panel	BVDNA	BD Affirm vaginitis collection kit	<72hrs room temp. or refrigerated	Specimen ampule must be used at time of collection	2 hours
Cryptococcus Ag Screen, CSF	CRYPT	Aseptically collected CSF	2-8°C or <-20°C		24 hours (Monday through Friday only)
Cryptococcus Ag Screen, Serum	CRYPTSER	Sterile, non-hemolyzed serum	2-8°C or <-20°C	Hemolyzed specimens could lead to false negative results	24 hours (Monday through Friday only)
C. diff Toxin A&B	CDIFFTOX	Sterile screw top container	2-8°C for up to 4 days	Performed as reflex test from positive PCR tests on in-patients only.	Once per shift (3 shifts in 24 hours)

PCR TEST	ORDER CODE	COLLECTION CONTAINER	TRANSPORT	LIMITS	TAT
Group B Strep PCR (Intrapartum)	STGBPCR	Red top swab	ASAP		2 hours
Routine Group B Strep Screen PCR	STGBPCRS	Red or Blue top swab	GBS LB – Swabs will be stored at room temperature if processed in Lim broth within 24 hours. Swabs that cannot be processed in Lim broth within 24 hours will be stored at 2-8°C for up to 6 days. Inoculated Lim broth is stable up to 72 hours at 2-8 °C.		24 hours
C. difficile PCR	CDIFCLIENT	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp.	One every 7 days Formed stool will be rejected	<24 hrs
Gonorrhea PCR	GCPCR	Male and female: Urine in a sterile container Female: Pink collection tube	<24 hrs room temp.	Gene Xpert collection material required Urine container must be filled to blue line	<24 hrs
Chlamydia PCR	CHPCR	Male and female: Urine in a sterile container Female: Pink collection tube	<24 hrs room temp.		<24 hrs
Gonorrhea/Chlamydia PCR	CHGCPCR	Male and female: Urine in a sterile container Female: Pink collection tube	<24 hrs room temp.		<24 hrs
Trichomonas PCR	TRICPCR	Male and female: Urine in a sterile container (within 4 hours of collection) Female: Pink collection tube	<24 hrs room temp.		<24 hrs
Xpress Flu/RSV PCR	FLURSVPCR FLUABPCR RSVPCR	NPS swab in Viral Transport Medium Nasal swab in Viral Transport Medium	VTM Specimens <24 hrs room temp. 7 days 2-8°C		<24 hrs
Viral Respiratory Panel	VRPPCR	NPS swab in Viral Transport Medium	<24 hrs room temp.		<24 hrs
Meningitis Panel	MENGPCR	CSF in Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs room temp		2 hrs

SENDOUT TEST	ORDER CODE	COLLECTION CONTAINER	TRANSPORT	LIMITS	TAT
AFB (Mycobacterium) on: sputum, CSF, urine, stool, or body fluid	AFBCz	Sterile screw top container	STAT	1 sample/day	3 days for smear 6 weeks for culture
AFB (Mycobacterium) on Blood	AFBBCz	BD Bactec Myco/F Lytic bottle	STAT	Do NOT refrigerate	3 days for smear 6 weeks for culture
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> by PCR	BPERz	Red or Green top swab	Refrigerated		5-7 days
CSF Viral Culture	VCCSFz	Sterile screw top container	<24 hrs refrigerated	Cotton swabs or wooden shafts will be rejected	14 days
Fecal Fat	FECFz	Sterile screw top container OR orange top Parapak	<24 hrs refrigerated	Diapers, Parapaks, and leaking containers will be rejected	5-7 days
Herpes Simplex Virus Culture	HSVCULz	Quest Viral Transport Media	<72 hrs refrigerated	Do NOT use calcium alginate or wooden shaft swabs CSF and sputum will be rejected	5-7 days
Mycoplasma Pneumoniae PCR		Red OR Green top swab in Quest Viral Transport Media	Refrigerated	Do NOT use calcium alginate or wooden shaft swabs CSF and sputum will be rejected	
Ova & Parasite	OPz	Pink and gray Parapaks OR black top Totalfix	<24 hrs	Maximum of 3/week collected on separate days	7-10 days
Viral Culture: Lesion/Rash	VCRASz	Red OR Green top swab	Refrigerated	Cotton swabs or wooden shafts will be rejected	21 days
Respiratory Viral Culture	VCRESz	Sterile container with screw top lid OR Red OR Green top swab in Quest Viral Transport Media	<24 hrs refrigerated	Cotton swabs or wooden shafts will be rejected	21 days

Collection Procedures

Aerobic/Anaerobic Cultures

- Gather supplies, wash hands and don gloves
- Remove dressing to expose the wound/site
- Clean skin surface with an antiseptic solution, sterile water, or sterile saline
- Exudate: if enough drainage is present-
 - gently aspirate (without a needle) 1mL into a syringe
 - Cap syringe and place it in a biohazard bag
- Exudate: if not enough drainage is present-
 - Insert swab deeply into the wound, avoiding outer edges, while gently rotating to collect as much sample as possible
 - Insert swab back into collection tube
 - Do NOT re-open for anaerobic cultures; Exposure to air will destroy anaerobic organisms
- Perform wound care as appropriate
- Remove gloves and wash hands

*Do not request cultures from open, superficial lesions as this usually represents contamination or colonization

Fungal

- Nails-
 - Remove nail polish. Clean nail(s) with alcohol swab
 - Use a #10 scalpel blade to scrape the lesion of the infected nail; discard the first 4 or 5 scrapings
 - Collect scraping from the proximal to the distal end of the nail over a sterile container
 - Debris under the nail plate should also be collected
- Hair-
 - Use sterile scissors and forceps to clip or pluck hair from infected area
 - Place in a sterile container
- Skin-
 - Briskly clean the area/lesion with alcohol swabs, sterile water, or sterile saline
 - Use a #10 scalpel blade to scrape the lesion into a sterile container

Nasopharyngeal

- Insert swab into back of nostril until resistance is met; Remove swab
- Repeat for opposite nostril
- Place swab in VTM if required

Nasal

- Insert the swab into a nostril.
- Rotate the swab against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nostril.
- Repeat on the other nostril with same swab.
- Place swab in VTM if required.

Pinworm

- Collect in a dark room if possible. Use a flashlight to visualize perianal area
- Press tape firmly against right and left perineal folds
- Place paddle in specimen cup

*Do NOT send stool as the specimen for this test

Sputum

- Have patient rinse mouth with water to reduce contamination
- Have patient cough deeply and expectorate into collection container
 - 1mL is required for culture and cytology
 - 5mL is required for AFB

*Sputum should NOT contain nasal drainage or saliva

Throat

- Depress tongue with depressor
- Swab areas of exudation on either tonsil or tonsil beds; avoid the tongue and cheek

Urine

- Male:
 - Patient should cleanse the area around the meatus with an antiseptic towelette or washcloth with soap and water
 - Patient will begin voiding
 - Use a sterile container to collect a midstream urine specimen
 - Avoid last few drops of urine as they may be contaminated with prostate secretions
- Female:
 - Patient should separate labia to expose urethral orifice and cleanse around meatus with antiseptic towelette or washcloth with soap and water
 - Begin voiding, keeping labia separated
 - Use a sterile container to collect a midstream urine specimen

All patient samples:

- **Require a physician's order**
- **Must be labeled in the presence of the patient**
 - **Use two patient identifiers (name, DOB, MR#, social security, etc.)**
 - **Collection container/tube MUST be labeled with two patient identifiers, time and date of collection, and sample source**
- **Contact the lab (806-725-4252) for amount of specimen needed if several tests are ordered or for tests you are unfamiliar with.**