

2016 Collection and Transport Guidelines for Microbiology Specimens for PHYSICIANS

ANALYSIS	SPECIMEN COLLECTION	STORAGE TEMP	RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT TIME
ROUTINE CULTURE			
SWABS Throat Eye* Ear Nasal Superficial Wound Deep Wound Other Anaerobes**	Copan Swab: Amies Clear Gel (red top) *Eye swabs to be taken prior to the application of topical anesthetic **Starplex Anaerobic System: Clear Gel (black top) swabs Available from Valley Medical Laboratories on request	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 12 hrs
Sputum	Sterile Container (pink top)	RT 4 ⁰ C	< 2 hrs < 12 hrs
VAGINITIS			
Initial Chronic/recurrent Trichomonas Antigen	Copan Swab: Amies Clear Gel (red top) (2nd swab required for Trichomonas Antigen Testing)	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 12 hrs
GONORRHEA CULTURE			
Cervix Urethra Throat Rectal*** Other	Copan Swab: Amies Clear Gel (red top) ***Rectal samples require a culture swab for Gonorrhea and a Gen-Probe Aptima swab for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea NAAT.	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 12 hrs
GROUP B STREP SCREEN			
Vagino-anorectal swab	Copan Swab: Amies Clear Gel (red top)	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 12 hrs
NAAT CHLAMYDIA (CT) & GONORRHEA (GC)			
Vaginal or Cervix Swab	COBAS PCR Female Swab Kit	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 7 days
Urine	COBAS PCR Urine Sample Kit Transfer urine from a 20 ml minimum-first void urine collection	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 7 days
Throat Wash	COBAS PCR Urine Sample Kit Transfer saline gargle collected into sterile container (pink top) (Prior to transfer sample is stable at 4 ⁰ C for 24 hours)	4 ⁰ C	< 24 hours
Urethral Swab Eye Swab Throat Swab Rectal Swab***	GEN-PROBE APTIMA Swab Kit Sent to BCCDC Kit available from Valley Medical Laboratories on request ***Rectal samples require a culture swab for Gonorrhea and a Gen-Probe Aptima swab for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea NAAT.	RT / 4 ⁰ C	< 7 days

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ENTERIC/STOOL SPECIMENS			
C. difficile Testing	Sterile Container (pink top) –unpreserved stool sample (refrigerate ASAP)	RT	< 2 hrs
		4 ^o C	< 24 hrs
Stool Culture	Container With Enteric Pathogen Transport Preservative (EPT) (transfer stool sample to EPT asap - within 2hrs of collection)	RT / 4 ^o C	< 48 hrs
	Sterile Container (pink top) – unpreserved stool sample (Shigella sp. are labile in unpreserved samples > 2hrs)	RT	< 2 hrs
Ova & Parasite Exam	Container With SAF Fixative (transfer stool sample to SAF within 30 min of collection)	RT / 4 ^o C	< 48 hrs
	Sterile Container (pink top) – unpreserved stool sample	RT / 4 ^o C	30 min
Pinworm Swab	Valley Medical Laboratories Vaseline/Paraffin Swab Collection Kit	RT / 4 ^o C	< 48 hrs
Worm Identification	Sterile Container (pink top) – unpreserved stool sample	RT / 4 ^o C	< 12 hrs
Fecal Fat	Sterile Container (pink top) – unpreserved stool sample	RT / 4 ^o C	< 24 hrs
URINE TESTS			
Urine Culture	Sterile Container with Boric Acid (white top) – Preserved Urine	RT / 4 ^o C	< 12 hrs
	Sterile Container (pink top) – Unpreserved Urine	RT	< 2 hrs
		4 ^o C	< 12 hrs
Urinalysis	Sterile Container (pink top) – Unpreserved Urine	RT	< 2 hrs
		4 ^o C	< 24 hrs
Pregnancy Test	Sterile Container (pink top) – Unpreserved Urine (first morning sample)	RT	< 8 hrs
		4 ^o C	< 24 hrs
Schistosoma hematobium	Sterile Container (pink top) – Unpreserved Urine	RT	< 2 hrs
		4 ^o C	< 24 hrs
SEMEN ANALYSIS			
Post-Vasectomy	Sterile Container (pink top) Refer to Semen Specimens Patient Instructions	RT	< 2 hrs
Fertility	Sterile Container (pink top) Refer to Semen Specimens Patient Instructions	RT	30 min
FLUIDS			
All	Not processed at VML - Deliver directly to local hospital Refer to hospital specimen collection and handling protocol	N/A	N/A
MYCOLOGY			
Dermatophytes: Skin scrapings, Hair, Nail Clippings	Sent to LifeLabs Collection Kit supplied by Valley Medical Laboratories	RT	< 24 hrs
ECTOPARASITES			
Ticks and Scabies	Sterile Container (pink top) Sent to BCCDC	RT	< 24 hrs