

Table 1 Microbiology Transport Systems for Bacteria, Viruses, Yeast, Fungi and AFB

Transport System	Information on Use
Bactiswab Transport System (aerobic only) example: swab for throat culture or culture for yeast	Sterile, disposable culture collection and transport system consisting of plastic tube containing rayon-tipped swab and transport medium to prevent drying of bacteria and maintain pH. Crush ampoule to moisten swab after collection.
Nasopharyngeal flocced swab	Flexible shaft and small tips provide easier specimen collection for nasopharyngeal specimens submitted for viruses .
Sterile screw-cap cups	Useful for collection of sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, and biopsy specimens. If biopsy specimen is small, add small amount of sterile 0.85% saline to cup. Never place biopsy specimen in formalin or wrap in gauze.
Sterile screw-cap tubes	Use for collection of sterile body fluids including CSF .
Urine transport tube (boric acid)	Use for preserving urine during transport to lab. This is the preferred method to send urine for culture.
E-swab transport tube for aerobic and anaerobic bacteria	Use the E-swab for aerobic and anaerobic culture requests. Place tissue or sterile fluid directly into E-swab transport. Alternatively, use the swab to sample the fluid and place in transport. Send large volumes of sterile body fluids to lab along with E-swab in sterile container (cup or tube) for concentration by centrifuging and for additional requests for AFB or Fungi. E-swab transport contains liquid Aimes medium to maintain the viability of fastidious bacteria including <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> . If additional tubes are sent to the lab, AFB, yeast and fungi can also be cultured.
Aptima genital swab collection tube Aptima urine collection tube	Detection of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> by the gene probe technique requires the Aptima collection kit for swab specimens and urine transport for urine specimens. This is the most sensitive method to detect these pathogens.
Viral Transport Media with flocced collection swab	Submit flocced swab specimens for virology culture in Viral transport media to maintain viability of virus and prevent bacterial overgrowth. Stool specimens also require use of Viral transport media.
EDTA lavender top tube, 4 or 6 mL	Submit blood for quantitative molecular testing for viruses in this tube. Blood parasite exam (Malaria) is also performed from an EDTA blood specimen.
Para Pak pink and blue vials for parasite detection	Fill each vial to the line with stool and mix. Giardia and Cryptosporidium antigens and other parasites are detected in this system.
Bactec aerobic, anaerobic and pediatric blood culture bottles	Aseptically transfer blood to Bactec bottles; 10 mL per bottle for aerobic/anaerobic adult set yields best sensitivity of detection. For 5-9 mL use the aerobic bottle only. Pediatric patients (age 11 or less) require use of Peds Plus F bottle and volume of 0.5-5 mL of blood.

Table 2 - Specimen Transport Guide by Source

Source or Type of Specimen	Transport Instructions
Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bactec aerobic and anaerobic blood culture bottles; 10 mL blood/40 mL adult bottle; 0.5-5 mL blood/20 mL pediatric bottle • MB-Bottle (black top) for AFB • 4 or 6 mL EDTA lavender tube for PCR; EBV & CMV • Pedi-isolator tube for dimorphic fungus, AFB
Bone Marrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB-Bottle (black top) for AFB • Pedi isolator tube: 1 tube for bacterial culture, 1 tube for AFB, 1 tube for fungal
CNS: CSF Shunt, Vent, Ommaya fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile screw-cap tube, tube #2 • Sterile screw-cap tube, non-specified
Brain abscess CNS biopsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Viral transport (never place in formalin)
Ear External ear Middle ear aspirate Tympanocentesis fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Sterile tube
Eye Conjunctival scrapings Corneal scrapings Intraocular fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send prepared smears and directly inoculate media for bacterial, fungi • Viral transport for scrapings, sterile tube if fluid • Aptima swab for GC/Chlamydia detection
Gastrointestinal system Feces Rectal swab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean cup for <i>C. diff</i>, WBC, Norovirus • C & S transport medium for bacterial culture • Viral transport medium for viral culture • Use Aptima swab for rectal GC/Chlamydia • Para Pak vials for parasitology (pink/blue)
Gastric lavage or washings Duodenal aspirate Sigmoidoscopy specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile screw-cap cup • Viral transport media
Pinworm request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Pinworm Paddle, obtain from Client Response

Genital Tract, female Cervical Urethra Vaginal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aptima swab; GC/Chlamydia molecular method • Chlamydia culture: Viral transport media with flocced swab (pediatric medicolegal only) • Yeast: Bactiswab • <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>: E-swab for culture • BV detection; dry swab submitted in a sterile container • Trichomonas; BD culture swab- sterile or with Stewarts transport medium
Bartholin fluid, Endometrial, Fallopian tube, Vulval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Viral transport media with flocced swab
Genital Tract, Male Urethral Anal swab Penile Lesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aptima swab for GC, Chlamydia by molecular method, most sensitive • Chlamydia culture: Viral transport media • E-swab transport for bacterial culture including • <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>
Epididymis Prostatic massage Semen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sterile screw-capped tube or cup •E-swab transport
Lower Respiratory Tract Lung Biopsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sterile, screw-cap cup • E-swab transport •For multiple requests send additional material
Expectorated sputum Induced sputum Tracheal aspirate Bronchoalveolar lavage (and mini-BAL) Bronchial washings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sterile screw-cap cup or sputum trap for bacterial and viral culture
Bronchial brush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sterile screw-cap tube
Upper Respiratory Tract Throat swab Nasal swab Nasopharyngeal swab Oral culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bactiswab (aerobic) for bacteria, yeast •Viral transport media with flocced swab for viruses •Use Aptima swab for GC in throat specimen
Nasopharyngeal aspirate Nasal washings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Viral transport media •Sterile screw cap cup
Sinus aspirate Tympanocentesis fluid Ear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •E-swab transport •Viral transport
Sterile Body Fluids (excluding CSF, urine, blood) Pleural, peritoneal, ascites, joint, synovial, Pericardial, amniotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •E-swab transport •Sterile tube for Virology •Send additional volume in sterile cup

<p>Skin and subcutaneous tissue Ulcers or nodules Exudate Superficial wound</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Viral transport • Sterile cup for skin, hair, nails for fungus
<p>Biopsy or punch-biopsy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport for normal sized specimen • Tiny specimen, send in sterile, screw-cap cup, moistened with sterile saline • Multiple requests require additional specimen
<p>Deep wound, aspirate, tissue Abscess Deep wound Soft tissue aspirate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Viral transport with flocced swab • Send additional material for multiple requests; i.e. fungus, AFB
<p>Bone Punch-biopsy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-swab transport • Sterile cup for very small specimens, moisten with sterile saline • Send additional material for multiple requests
<p>Urine, all sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine transport tube for bacterial culture, for small volume place in sterile screw-cap cup • Aptima urine transport tube for GC/Chlamydia • Virology culture use sterile screw-cap cup