



Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Services

TO: Medical Staff
FROM: Jennifer Blakeney, MLS(ASCP)SM
DATE: September 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Anaerobic Culture Specimen Selection

In order to provide useful and relevant information from Anaerobic Cultures, the specimen selection criteria for the culturing of anaerobic bacteria have been revised.

The following specimens will be ACCEPTED for Anaerobic Culture:

Respiratory Tract: Protected Bronchial Brush, Transtracheal Aspirate, Percutaneous Lung Aspirate/Tissue, Nasal Sinus Aspirate/Tissue
Female Genital Tract: Culdoscopy Aspirate/Tissue, Fallopian Tube Aspirate/Tissue, Ovary Aspirate/Tissue, Endometrial Biopsy, Placenta Tissue, IUD
Abscess/Wound/Ulcer: Abscess Aspirate, Tissue, Sacral Decubitus Aspirate/Tissue, Sinus Tract Aspirate/Tissue, Sulfur Granules from Draining Sinus Tract, Deep Wound Probe/Aspirate
Surgical Specimens: Body Fluids, Tissue, Bone, Bone Marrow
Urine: Suprapubic, Cystoscope, Nephrostomy Aspirates
Inner Ear: Tympanocentesis Fluid
Eye: Vitreous Fluid

- *Specimens collected with needle/syringe must have the needle removed and the syringe capped before transporting to the Laboratory.*
- *Submit **Liquid Aspirates** in a sterile container, capped syringe, or Anaerobic Transport Media.*
- *Submit **Tissues** in a sterile container.*
- *Submit **Bones** in a sterile container.*
- ***Swabs are highly discouraged** unless an aspirate or tissue cannot be obtained. Swab collections must probe deep to the base of the wound, be submitted in Anaerobic Transport Media, and be from an acceptable source.*

The following specimens will be REJECTED for Anaerobic Culture:

Superficial skin wound, ulcer, abscess collected with swab.
Sacral Decubitus Swabs
Urine voided clean catch or catheterized
Catheter Tips / intravascular devices.
Genital tract (lower) – cervix, vagina, urethra, perineum, lochia.
Respiratory – bronchial wash, BAL, sputum, tracheal aspirates, mouth, throat, nose, nasopharynx.
Gastrointestinal - stool, rectal swab/abscess, perianal swab/abscess, intestinal, small bowel and gastric contents.

Please contact the Microbiology Laboratory at (302)-645-3563 with any questions regarding specimen collection.

