

Central Vermont Medical Center

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**FUNGUS CULTURE
SPECIMEN COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS**

RESPIRATORY SPECIMENS

1. Sputum-Follow Sputum Collection procedure and deliver specimen to lab. Refrigerate if delivery will be delayed.
2. Bronchial wash-Follow bronchial wash collection procedure and deliver ASAP to the lab.
3. Tracheal aspirations.-Follow aspirations procedure and deliver ASAP to lab.
4. Throat swabs - follow throat swab collection procedure.
5. All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

STERILE BODY FLUIDS

1. After specimen is collected deliver ASAP to lab for culture.
2. All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

BLOOD

Collect blood in a blood culture bottle according to established procedure. Deliver specimen to the lab. Maintain at room temperature if delivery will be delayed.

*Recovery of filamentous fungi requires a special vacutainer tube (Isolator tubes in microbiology in drawer under Bactec). Consult microbiology department **Before** collection; sent to the University of Vermont Medical Center lab.*

All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

HAIR, SKIN, NAIL

The nail should be wiped with 70% ETOH prior to collection. Submit scrapings of skin from the leading edge of the lesion, trimming of nails including scrapings from under the nail or hair samples with intact shaft in a sterile container to the lab for analysis. Enough specimen should be collected to cover the head of a thumbtack. Transport to the lab at room temperature.

All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

URINE

1. Collect a clean catch mid-stream urine specimen. Deliver to the lab for analysis.
2. Refrigerate after collection if delivery is delayed.
3. All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

TISSUE SPECIMENS

1. After excising, submit fresh tissue for examination immediately to the laboratory.
2. All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

BONE MARROW

Aspirate bone marrow in a heparinized syringe. Transfer at least 1 ml of the heparinized bone marrow to a pediatric Isolator tube for fungal culture. Testing is performed at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

GENITAL

Wipe away excessive amount of secretions or discharge. In vaginal specimens, obtain secretions from the mucosal membrane of the vaginal vault with a sterile swab. Urethral swabs, inserted 2-4 cm into the urethral lumen may also be submitted.

All specimens must be labeled with patient name and date of birth.

REFERENCE

Manual of Clinical Microbiology; Murray, Baron, Pfaller, Tenover and Tenover, 7th Ed. 1999.