

Medical Research Institute Colombo, Sri Lanka	Subject title: Guideline on sample collection and transport	Version 1.1
Clinical Bacteriology & Molecular biology	Prepared by: Dr. Lilani Karunanayake	Date of issue: 03.06.2019 Annual review date: 03.06.2020

## Guidelines for Sample Collection and Transport in Bacteriology

Laboratory Test	Specimen to be collected	Best time for collection	Collection procedure	Transport requirements	Turn-around time	Comment
Blood culture	Blood	Please refer to guideline on collection of blood for culture Annexure – 1A and 1B			3-7 days	Obtain culture bottles from room no. 336 MRI
Blood culture for brucellosis	Blood	Before antibiotics therapy	Please refer to guideline on collection of blood for culture Annexure – 1A and 1B		3 days to 3 weeks	Obtain culture bottles from room no. 336
Blood culture for leptospirosis	Blood CSF  Obtain the culture bottles from room no. 344 - MRI	Within 7days of illness	Blood: inoculate 2and 3 drops of blood into two tubes of semi-solid EMJH medium, under aseptic condition  Refer to the guideline on collection of blood for leptospira culture Annexure – 1C  CSF-Same as above	Send with minimum delay.  Keep the culture tubes at room temperature in a dark place without exposure to sunlight after collection until transport to the lab	1 week to 3 months	Blood culture more than 10 days after disease onset should not be done.  Large volume of blood in to culture tubes may inhibit the growth of leptospire
CVP tip culture	5-6 cm CVP tip	On removal of catheter	Clean skin with 70% alcohol. Remove catheter aseptically using a sterile forcep. Cut 5-6cm part from the terminal end which was	Immediately. If delay, refrigerate and send within 24 hours	2-3 days	Blood from a peripheral vein should be sent to diagnose intravascular catheter



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			under the skin. Place it in a dry, sterile container.			infection
CSF culture	CSF from lumbar puncture / EVD, shunt – 2ml	Before antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	Clean skin with 70% alcohol. Collect CSF in to sterile screw capped bottle.	Send the bottle immediately to the lab in room temperature	4-5 days	Send the 2 <sup>nd</sup> sample in LP.  Do not refrigerate
Urine culture	Urine	Before antibiotics therapy	Refer to guideline in collection and transport of urine samples Annexure - 2	Immediately. If delay > 2 hours transport on ice or keep refrigerated.	2-3 days	
Wound swab / pus / discharge/ tissues culture	Pus aspirate, wound swab, tissue	Before antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	Remove surface exudate with sterile saline. Aspirate material in to a sterile container or deep swabbing from the edge of the wound	Immediately. If delay > 2 hours keep in room temperature and transport in < 24 hours	2-3 days	Tissues should be sent in normal saline If possible send 2 swabs from same wound
Sputum culture	Sputum ≥ 1 ml		Ask the patient to gaggle throat and rinse mouth with water. Collect by deep coughing. Collect in to a sterile container	Immediately. If delay > 2 hours keep in room temperature and transport in < 24 hours	2-3 days	Do not refrigerate
Endo-tracheal secretions / BAL culture	Endotracheal aspirate, BAL		Aspirate secretions from the ET tube. Cut the distal 2-3 cm of the tube with secretions using a sterile scissor. BAL sample should be collected in to a sterile	Immediately with minimum delay in room temperature within 24 hours	2-3 days	Do not refrigerate



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			container during bronchoscopy			
Ear swab / aspirate culture	Fluid aspirate or swab	Before antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	Rotate a sterile swab in the outer canal in otitis externa or aspiration	Immediately in room temperature. If delay, maintain at RT send within 24 hours	2-5 days	
Throat swab culture	Throat swab	-	Ask the patient to extend the neck and open the mouth. Swab the tonsils, soft palate, uvula and the posterior pharyngeal wall. Do not touch the tongue.	Immediately in room temperature. If delay, maintain at RT / refrigerate send within 24 hours before drying.	2-3 days	
Peritoneal, plural synovial, pericardial fluids culture	Sterile fluid 2-5 ml	Before antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	Clean skin with 70% alcohol and povidone iodine. Aspirate with sterile syringe and needle	Transport with minimum delay in room temperature	3-7 days	Do not refrigerate
MRSA screening swabs	Four swabs from nasal, throat, axillae and perineum	-	Swab both anterior nares with a single swab in a circular motion. Swab the back of the throat rotating and moving back and forth across the throat. Swab both axillae with a single swab rotating and brushing across the area. Same	Maintain in RT or refrigerate for < 24 hours	5 days	Axillae and perineal swabs can be taken by the patient following the instructions.  Wound swabs and swabs from skin lesions may



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			method applies to perineal swabbing.			be sent.
<i>Legionella</i> antigen detection in urine	Urine 3-5 ml	Suspected symptomatic patients	Collect urine in to a sterile container	Send with minimum delay < 24 hours in room temperature.  If delay of 2-14 days, refrigerate 2-8 <sup>0</sup> C and send on ice.	2-3 days	The test is done in batches. Please check with the laboratory for availability and time of examination result <b>before</b> <b>sample</b> <b>collection.</b>

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