

Medical Research Institute Colombo, Sri Lanka	Subject title: Guideline on sample collection and transport clinical bacteriology IMD	Version 2 ID Code: CB/QSE7/Ap013
	Reviewed by: Quality Management Committee	Date of issue: 25.04.2023
Clinical Bacteriology	Approved by: Dr. Lilani Karunanayake	Annual review date: 25.04.2024

Specimen collection and transport of specimens for the diagnosis of invasive meningococcal infection (IMD)

Meningococcal sepsis and meningitis are caused by a bacterium known as *Neisseria meningitidis*. It is a ‘medical emergency’ with very high mortality. Mortality rate for meningitis is >50% and >10% may develop complications. About 8-15% of patients with sepsis will die within 24-48hours.

Laboratory-confirmed cases of meningococcal sepsis and meningitis were reported in December 2019. Since October, 2022 we observed a rise in the number of IMD patients and in April, 2023 more patients were reported by the hospital consultant microbiologists.

Please use the guide below when sending samples of suspected patients to the National Reference Laboratory, Medical Research Institute for confirmation. Always practice safety precautions at collection and transport of the specimen.

Specimen Collection and Transport to the National Reference Laboratory for Clinical Microbiology, Medical Research Institute

Test	Specimen	Transport	Turn-around-Time	*Mode of report delivery
Realtime PCR for the detection of meningococcus	Blood, serum, CSF, sterile fluid in plain, sterile bottle	Cool box [temperature +4 ⁰ C]	1 day	Email, Phone, Fax
Bacterial culture	**Blood in automated bottle	Room temperature	Depend on growth	Email, Phone, Fax
Bacterial latex antigen agglutination	CSF	Cool box [temperature +4 ⁰ C]	1 day	Email, Phone, Fax
Bacterial isolates for identification & confirmation	In sealed agar slants or plates	Room temperature	4 days	Email, Phone, Fax

*Please send the Email address, mobile no. or Fax no. of a responsible person or institution

** if automated blood culture bottle is required a request should be made

For further information, please contact:

MRI - 0112 69 35 32 EXT: 336

Dr. Lilani Karunanayake, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, National Reference Laboratory for Clinical Microbiology, Medical Research Institute, Colombo.

Medical Research Institute Colombo, Sri Lanka	Subject title: Guideline on sample collection and transport clinical bacteriology IMD	Version 2 ID Code: CB/QSE7/Ap013
	Reviewed by: Quality Management Committee	Date of issue: 25.04.2023
Clinical Bacteriology	Approved by: Dr. Lilani Karunanayake	Annual review date: 25.04.2024