

Medical Research Institute Colombo, Sri Lanka	Subject title: Guideline on sample collection and transport clinical bacteriology	Version 2 ID Code: CB/QSE7/Ap013
	Reviewed by: Quality Management Committee	Date of issue: 12.12.2022
Clinical Bacteriology	Approved by: Dr. Lilani Karunanayake	Annual review date: 12.12.2023

## Guidelines for sample collection and transport

Laboratory Test	Specimen to be collected	Best time for collection	Collection procedure	Transport requirements	Turn-around time	Comment
Blood culture	Blood	Before antibiotics therapy	Guideline for culture collection 1A, 1B – obtain with the bottle	Send the bottle immediately to the lab in room temperature	3-7 days	Obtain culture bottles from room no. 336 MRI
Blood culture for brucellosis	Blood	Before antibiotics therapy	Guideline on collection of blood for culture 1A /1B obtain with the bottle	Send the bottle immediately to the lab in room temperature	3 days to 3 weeks	Obtain culture bottles from room no. 336
Blood culture for leptospirosis	Blood CSF – plain sterile bottle  Obtain the blood culture bottles from room no. 344 - MRI	Within 5 days of illness – blood  After 8-10 days of illness - CSF	Blood: inoculate 2 and 3 drops of blood into 1-2 bottles with EMJH medium, under aseptic condition, bedside inoculation. Mix well.	Send with minimum delay.  Keep the culture tubes at room temperature in a dark place without exposure to sunlight until transport	1 week to 3 months	Do not obtain blood culture after 7 days of illness.  Large volume of blood in to culture bottles may inhibit the growth of leptospores
CVP tip culture	5-6 cm CVP tip	On removal of catheter	Clean skin with 70% alcohol. Remove catheter aseptically using a sterile forceps. Cut 5-6cm part from the terminal end which was under the skin. Place it in a dry, sterile container.	Immediately. If delay, refrigerate and send within 24 hours	2-3 days	Blood from a peripheral vein should be sent to diagnose intravascular catheter infection
CSF culture	CSF from	Before	Clean skin with 70%	Send the bottle	4-5 days	Send the 2 <sup>nd</sup>



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	lumbar puncture / EVD, shunt – 2ml	antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	alcohol. Collect CSF in to sterile screw capped bottle.	immediately to the lab in room temperature		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.	2-4 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	3-5 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	3-5 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 container during bronchoscopy	Immediately with minimum delay in room temperature within 24 hours	3-5 days	Do not refrigerate
Ear swab /	Fluid aspirate	Before	Rotate a sterile swab in	Immediately in	2-5 days	



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aspirate culture	or swab	antibiotic therapy or before changing to new antibiotics	the outer canal in otitis externa or aspiration	room temperature. If delay, maintain at RT send within 24 hours		
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 method applies to perineal swabbing.	Maintain in RT or refrigeration 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 be sent.



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<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°C and send on ice.	1 -2 days	The test is done in batches. Please check with the laboratory for availability and time of examination result <b>before sample collection.</b>
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### Guideline on collection and transport for serological tests

Laboratory Test	Specimen to be collected	Best time for collection	Collection procedure	Transport requirements	Turn-around time	Comment
Mycoplasma antibody detection test	2-3 ml of clotted blood or serum	1 <sup>st</sup> sample – 7-10 days of clinical illness  2 <sup>nd</sup> sample – 2 weeks after the 1 <sup>st</sup> sample	<p><b>Collection of blood:</b></p> <p>Clean the skin with 70% alcohol.</p> <p>Using a sterile syringe and needle draw the required volume of blood.</p> <p>Collect in to a sterile container undisturbed for the formation of clot for 1-2 hour.</p> <p>send the blood in RT</p> <p><b>Separation of serum:</b></p> <p>Keep the sample in RT for 2 hours. Centrifuge at 1500 x g for 15 min.</p>	<p>Send with minimum delay.</p> <p>If delay, the blood sample should be refrigerated and dispatch blood sample within 2 days.</p> <p>Serum within 3-5 days in +4°C to 8°C and send in cool box</p>	2 days	<p>The test will be performed twice a week on Tues day and Friday.</p> <p>Testing of paired sera maybe necessary to detect a rising titre or seroconversion to confirm.</p>



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Microscopic agglutination test (MAT) for leptospirosis	5 ml of clotted blood or serum  Acute and convalescent samples	After 5 <sup>th</sup> day of illness	Transfer the separated serum in to a sterile container.  Store in +4°C – 8°C or frozen and until dispatch to the lab		2 days	Testing of paired sera maybe necessary to detect a rising titre or seroconversion for the confirmation of the diagnosis.  A negative serological result in the early phase of the disease does not exclude leptospirosis
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