

## Fungal Culture, Routine

**Test ID:** FGEN

### Explanation:

Effective July 1, 2025, the Clinical Microbiology Mycology and Mycobacteriology Laboratory will accept **only** flocked swabs (e.g., E-swabs) for this test.

Flocked swabs should be surgically collected and will be accepted for fungal and mycobacterial culture **only** if collection of tissue or aspirate fluid is not possible. Swabs sent with multiple tests ordered on them which do not have sufficient volume for all tests will have the mycobacterial culture cancelled because higher specimen volumes are required.

The reason for this change is to improve the quality of specimens received for culture:

- Although easy to collect, swabs hold very small amounts of specimen and it is difficult to recover the specimen from non-flocked swabs
- Mycobacteria are especially affected due to their highly hydrophobic cell wall that adheres strongly to swab fibers
- Mycobacterial culture requires extensive pre-processing of the specimen in the laboratory to inactivate extraneous bacteria which can overgrow mycobacteria, and the preprocessing steps require a higher specimen volume than needed for standard bacterial or fungal cultures

Current Specimen Required	New Specimen Required
<b>Necessary Information</b> Specimen source is required.	<b>Necessary Information</b> Specimen source is required.
<b>Specimen Required</b> <b>Preferred Specimen Type:</b> Body fluid <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection	<b>Specimen Required</b> <b>Preferred Specimen Type:</b> Body fluid <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection
<b>Preferred Specimen Type:</b> Fresh tissue <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Pea size <b>Collection Instructions:</b> Tissue should be placed in small amount of sterile saline or sterile water.	<b>Preferred Specimen Type:</b> Fresh tissue <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Pea size <b>Collection Instructions:</b> Tissue should be placed in small amount of sterile saline or sterile water.
<b>Specimen Type:</b> Bone marrow <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container, SPS/Isolator system, or green top (lithium or sodium heparin) <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection	<b>Specimen Type:</b> Bone marrow <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container, SPS/Isolator system, or green top (lithium or sodium heparin) <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection
<b>Specimen Type:</b> Respiratory specimen <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection	<b>Specimen Type:</b> Respiratory specimen <b>Container/Tube:</b> Sterile container <b>Specimen Volume:</b> Entire collection

**Acceptable Specimen Type:** Swab

**Sources:** Dermal, ear, mouth, ocular, throat, or wound

**Container/Tube:** Culture transport swab (non-charcoal) Culturette or ESwab

**Specimen Volume:** Swab

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Before collecting specimen, wipe away any excessive amount of secretion and discharge, if appropriate.
2. Obtain secretions or fluid from source with sterile swab.
3. If smear and culture are requested or both a bacterial culture and fungal culture are requested, collect a second swab to maximize test sensitivity.

**Specimen Type:** Urine

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container

**Specimen Volume:** 2 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Collect a random urine specimen.

**Acceptable Specimen Type:** Flocked Swab (e.g Eswab)

**Supplies:** BD Eswab (T853)

**Sources:** Dermal, ear, mouth, ocular, throat, or wound

**Container/Tube:** Flocked swab, (e.g ESwab)

**Specimen Volume:** Entire 1ml in swab container with swab

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Before collecting specimen, wipe away any excessive amount of secretion and discharge, if appropriate.
2. Obtain secretions or fluid from source with sterile flocked swab. Paranasal sinus collections must use a nasopharyngeal flocked swab.
3. If smear and culture are requested or both a bacterial culture and fungal culture are requested, collect a second swab to maximize test sensitivity.

**Specimen Type:** Urine

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container

**Specimen Volume:** 2 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Collect a random urine specimen.

## Questions

Contact Dunisha Messmer, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.