
Fungal Smear, Varies

Test ID: FS

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

Specimen Type: Urine
Container/Tube: Sterile container
Specimen Volume: 2 mL
Collection Instructions: Collect a random urine specimen.

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
Paranasal sinus collections must use a nasopharyngeal flocked 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.
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.

Questions

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