

Culture/Swab – Specimen Requirements

Culture Type	Collection/Transport Medium	Other Requirements
All Purpose (wound, throat, vaginal, etc.)	BBL CultureSwab w/ liquid Amies	Refrigerate after collection.
Chlamydia – Culture	Micro Test M4 Transport W/ MicroGent Swab Combo	Refrigerate before & after collection.
Chlamydia and/or GC – Gen Probe APTIMA Not used for patients less than 13 years of age.	Cervical or urethral swab Or Urine kit	Store at Room Temperature. Urine must be transferred to transport tube.
Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma	Micro Test, M4 Transport W/ MicroGent Swab Combo	Refrigerate before & after collection.
Nasopharyngeal for RSV and/or Influenza	SWAB-PAK Dacron Culture Swab	<i>Add 0.5 ml sterile saline; refrigerate after collection.</i>
Neisseria Gonorrhoeae – Culture	BBL CultureSwab Plus (Amies w/ charcoal)	Hold at Room Temperature. <i>Must be received in Lab 12 hours after collection.</i>
Virus Culture (Herpes, etc.)	Micro Test M4 Transport W/ MicroGent Swab Combo	Refrigerate before & after collection.
Wet Prep (includes Clue Cells, Yeast and Trichomonas) <i>Note: for Trichomonas, analyze in lab within 4 hours of collection.</i>	BBL CultureSwab EZ (polyurethane swab)	<i>Add 1ml sterile saline.</i>
Group A Streptococcal Antigen Rapid Strep - Throat Swabs	BBL CultureSwab EZ (polyurethane swab)	Store at Room Temperature

Note regarding fluids for culture: Send all fluids, e.g. ascitic, dialysis, paracentesis, pericardial, peritoneal, pleural, synovial, thoracentesis, etc. as well as aspirates, drainages, etc., in a capped syringe with needle removed, sterile specimen cup, sterile vacutainer tube, or port-a-cul vial without a swab!