ANAEROBIC WOUND CULTURE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCEPTABLE Specimens for Anaerobic Culture</th>
<th>Unacceptable Specimens for Anaerobic Culture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abscesses</td>
<td>Decubitis ulcers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deep wound infections</td>
<td>Superficial wound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tissue</td>
<td>Throat or nasopharyngeal swabs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body fluids</td>
<td>Sputum or bronchoscopic specimens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suprapubic urine</td>
<td>Feces or rectal swabs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans-tracheal sputum</td>
<td>Vaginal or cervical swabs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placenta</td>
<td>Voided or catheterized urine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endometrium</td>
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<td>Protected bronchial brushing</td>
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Special Precautions Universal precautions should be followed with all patients.

Materials Needed

- BBL Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector (Becton Dickinson)
  The Anaerobic Specimen Collector should be examined prior to use.  
  **DO NOT USE PAST THE EXPIRATION DATE**  
  **DO NOT USE IF THE OUTSIDE POUCH IS DAMAGED**  
  **DO NOT USE IF THE INDICATOR DISC INSIDE TUBE IS PINK**  
  **DO NOT TOUCH STOPPER AFTER OPENING POUCH**  
  **DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER DURING COLLECTION**
- Sterile swab transport system (Culturette)
- Sterile container for tissue >1 cm

Collection of Tissue Specimens

- Tissue and aspirate specimens provide **adequate volume for testing, increase the recovery of the infecting pathogen, and improve the quality of results**. The amount of available bacteria present is 1000 times than that which is represented in a swab.
  1. Cut tissue into small pieces of less than 1cm to fit inside the small inner tube of the Vacutainer Anaerobic Collector. (For tissue pieces >1cm, place tissue in a sterile container with a small amount of sterile physiologic saline and transport to the Laboratory immediately)
  2. Peel apart pouch and remove the Anaerobic Collector. **DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER.**
  3. Remove the swab plunger unit and place small pieces of tissue into the inner tube. **Do Not** force oversized pieces of tissue into the inner tube. This could force the inner tube out of the stopper and allow excess oxygen to enter the larger outside glass tube.
  4. Replace the swab unit and press down on the disc portion of the plunger until it rests against the top of the rubber stopper.
  5. Appropriately label and transport to the laboratory.
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Collection of Swab Specimens

- Swabs only have the capacity to absorb 0.015 - 0.5 mL, which will reduce the amount of bacteria present in the specimen up to 1000 fold.
- Swabs only sample the surface and membranes which are colonized with bacteria and do not accurately represent the infecting pathogen below.
- Swabs are suboptimal for AFB and Fungal cultures which can yield false negative results.

Use the Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector AND a sterile culturette swab. Obtain BOTH specimens from the SAME site. The specimen on the culturette will be used for the routine smear (Gram stain) and the culture (both aerobic and anaerobic) will be set up from the Anaerobic Specimen Collector.

1. Peel apart pouch
2. Remove plunger with sterile swab attached. DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER. DO NOT TOUCH TOP OF GRAY STOPPER.
3. Obtain specimen.
4. Replace swab through hole and insert into the small inner glass tube. DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER.
5. Press down on the disc portion of plastic plunger with continuous gentle force until the plastic disc rests against the top of the rubber stopper, forcing the small inner tube into the larger outer tube.
6. Hold the tube at a 45° angle while depressing the plunger. Rotate the tube with a swirling motion to mix air in the inner tube with the hydrogen atmosphere in the outer tube.
7. Obtain another specimen from the same area using the aerobic/BactiSwab transport system. Place this swab into the plastic tube.
8. Label both swabs appropriately and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Collection of Liquid or Purulent Specimens

1. Decontaminate the surface and aspirate the purulent material with a sterile syringe and needles. Expel the air into an alcohol saturated sponge/glove. Submit aspirated material.
   - in the sterile syringe with a cap or plug (without needle attached), OR
   - in a Vacutainer Anaerobic Collector
2. Peel apart pouch and remove the Vacutainer Anaerobic Collector. DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER.
3. Remove the swab plunger unit and expel material from the syringe into the small inner glass tube. DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER.
4. Replace swab through hole and insert into the small inner glass tube. DO NOT REMOVE THE STOPPER.
5. Press down on the disc portion of plastic plunger with continuous gentle force until the plastic disc rests against the top of the rubber stopper, forcing the small inner tube into the larger outer tube.
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6. Hold the tube in an upright position while depressing the plunger. While still holding the tube in an upright position, rotate the tube with a swirling motion to mix air in the inner tube with the hydrogen atmosphere in the outer tube.

7. Maintaining the tube in an upright position, appropriately label according to Laboratory policy and transport to the laboratory along with the culturette swab taken from the same site.

8. Liquid/purulent specimens may also be sent to the lab in a sterile sodium heparin tube. Do NOT use EDTA tube.

Specimen Labeling  Refer to the Specimen Collection Procedure for Labeling Specimens