MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

ACM Medical Laboratory offers a comprehensive menu of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostic services that support many indications, including Women’s Health and Infectious Diseases. We strive to offer state of the art testing solutions that generate accurate and timely results to support clinical decisions. In addition to this Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide, more in-depth Microbiology-specific resources can be found on our website in the ACM Medical Laboratory Online Reference Manual in the Downloads section, http://referencemanual.acmlab.com/downloads/ to assist clinicians with test selection, antimicrobial susceptibility profiling and diagnostic algorithms. To look up specific tests by test name or test number, go to http://referencemanual.acmlab.com/search/.
### BLOOD

**BD Bactec Blood Culture Bottles**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Used for Blood culture collection.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** Sterile fluids other than blood.  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** A typical blood culture will include a set with one Aerobic Bottle (blue cap) and one Anaerobic bottle (yellow cap).  
*The Pediatric bottle (pink cap) is reserved for pediatric patients or patients who are difficult to draw.*

### MISCELLANEOUS

**BBL Amies with Charcoal**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For collection and transport of specimens for Bordetella pertussis.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** Routine aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture.  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The swab included in this transport kit is a minitip with a very small surface area. It is recommended for taking cultures from areas where a larger swab may cause discomfort for the patient, such as Nasopharynx and urethra. If larger areas are being cultured, use a regular swab.

**Sterile Cup**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For the collection of samples which cannot easily be collected with a culture swab. This includes, but is not limited to: Urine, Sputum, Stool, Sterile Fluids, Tissue/Bone samples, Skin & Scalp scrapings, Nail Clippings, Catheter Tips and IUD.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** If urine is collected in a sterile cup, refrigerate immediately to prevent bacterial overgrowth. Preferred collection for urine culture is the BD preservative tube that is provided with the urine collection kit as it contains a preservative to reduce overgrowth.

**BD E-Swab**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Collection of samples for aerobic, anaerobic, and fastidious bacteria.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** This device is for swab collections only. Do not use for the collection of tissues or fluids.

**BBL Cultureswab**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For collection of many different specimens for routine AEROBIC bacterial culture and FUNGAL culture where the infected site can easily be accessed with the swab. This includes, but is not limited to: Throat & Nose, Eye & Ear, Skin/Wound sites and Genital area.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Although it is possible to share a single swab amongst multiple tests, using a single swab can reduce the sensitivity of the tests being performed. For multiple tests it is recommended that more than one swab be sent if a single swab is submitted for culture and gram stain, a gram stain will not be performed.

**Oral Fluid Drug Testing**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Used for Oral Fluid Collection Only  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Please review and follow all collection instruction included with the collection device.

### PARASITE

**Pinworm Paddle**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Pinworm examination from anal area preparation.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The paddle has a sticky and nonsticky side. Use the appropriate side of the paddle to obtain a sample.
**FIT, Occult Blood**

**PREFERRED USE:** Used for Stool Collection Only.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Please review and follow all collection instruction included with the collection device.

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**STOOL**

**ECOFIX O&P Preservative Parapak**

**PREFERRED USE:** For preservation of stool for Ova and Parasite examination when extended transport times are expected (beyond 12 hours).

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Parapaks provided by different manufacturers may be similar in appearance, but have different uses. The Ova & Parasite vial must indicate use for Ova and parasite.

**Carey Blair Stool Culture Preservative Parapak**

**PREFERRED USE:** For preservation of stool for bacterial culture when extended transport times are expected (beyond 12 hours).

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Parapaks provided by different manufacturers may be similar in appearance, but have different uses. The stool culture vial must indicate use for culture.

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**URINE**

**Urine Culture / Urinalysis Collection Kit**

**PREFERRED USE:** Collection of urine for Urine Culture and Urinalysis.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The primary urine cup does contain a needle in the cap which is necessary for the filling of the tubes. Care must be taken to insure this needle is covered prior to transport.

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**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION**

**Roche Cobas PCR Female Swab Kit**

**PREFERRED USE:** Used for the transport of vaginal, endocervical, pharyngeal, rectal, and urethral samples for Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Chlamydia trachomatis testing.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** It is very important that samples are properly collected, and that the swab is broken off at the indicated height before placing into the collection tube. Two swabs are provided for use with endocervical samples. Use one swab to clean away excess mucous, and the other for specimen collection. For all other sample types, only one swab is used. If collecting urethral specimens, please submit a request for special smaller tip urethral swabs.

**Trichomonas Culture Pouch**

**PREFERRED USE:** For Trichomonas Culture from genital sites and male urines. Recommended for males only. For females, it is preferable to test vaginal samples using the BD Affirm VPIII assay.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The urine for the Trichomonas culture must be spun and sediment placed into the Trichomonas Pouch within one hour of collection to maximize recovery of organisms. It is recommended that due to the time constraints, this process be performed on site at the doctor’s office or clinic. Swabs used for sample collection should be removed from the pouch after media inoculation, and prior to transport to the laboratory.

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**Roche Cobas PCR Urine Kit**

**PREFERRED USE:** Used for the transfer of urines for Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Chlamydia trachomatis testing. Urine in a sterile cup may also be collected and sent for testing. The transfer of the urine into the PCR tube can be done post transport if delivery to the laboratory takes place within 24 hours of collection.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** A first morning void sample is preferable. If this is not possible, insure the patient has not voided for a minimum of 1 hour prior to collection. DO NOT provide a clean catch sample for this testing.
Remel Viral/Chlamydia Collection Kit
PREFERRED USE: Viral Culture including Influenza, Herpes, Parainfluenza, Rhinovirus, CMV, Varicella virus, Adenovirus, Enterovirus and RSV. Chlamydia culture.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: Influenza A/B/RSV PCR.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The tube may be stored at room temperature prior to use, but it is recommended that it be stored refrigerated after collection to minimize overgrowth of any bacteria that may be present in the sites that have been cultured.

BD Afrm VPIII ATTS
PREFERRED USE: Vaginosis screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginalis and Trichomonas vaginalis.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The specimen collection swab must be submitted in the tube for the testing to be completed.

Thin Prep
PREFERRED USE: Collection and transport of samples for pap smear.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: High Risk HPV and GC/Chlamydia testing.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

Starplex Starswab II
PREFERRED USE: Vaginosis screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginalis and Trichomonas vaginalis.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: Routine bacterial culture of aerobic and anaerobic organisms, gram stain and yeast cultures.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Although it is possible to share a single swab amongst multiple tests, using a single swab can reduce the sensitivity of the tests being performed. For multiple tests it is recommended that more than one swab be sent for testing.

Not recommended for collection of samples for Acid–Fast Culture.