Overview

ACM Medical Laboratory, Inc., a division of Unity Health System is a full-service testing laboratory with operations in the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, China and India. ACM Medical Laboratory has 39 years of experience conducting laboratory testing offering a powerful combination of robust global capabilities, operational and scientific expertise and unsurpassed service. The organization performs 15 million tests each year, featuring more than 1,600 individual tests spanning all medical disciplines including pathology, microbiology and flow cytometry.

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 Bectec 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 Bacteriological culture.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: Routine aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The swab stored in the transport kit is stored with a very small surface area. It is recommended that cultures from areas with a larger swab may cause discomfort for the patient, such as Nasopharynx and urethra. If larger areas are being cultured, use a regular swab.

BD BBL Port-a-cul

PREFERRED USE: For transport of swabs, sterile fluids and tissues for Anaerobic bacterial culture.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: These transport tubes are strictly for use when culturing for anaerobic bacteria. They cannot be used for Acid-fast or fungal cultures. For preservation of stool for Acid-fast or fungal cultures. PreferreD Use: Carey Blair Stool Culture. PreferreD Use: BD Affirm VPIII assay. ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: ParaPaks must indicate use for Ova and Parasite.

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, Trouser/Boot samples, Skin & Scalp scrapings, Nail Clippings, Cether Tips and I&D.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: If urine is collected in a sterile cup, refrigerate immediately to prevent bacterial overgrowth. It is beneficial to refrigerate the samples to reduce overgrowth of bacteria. A 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.

Sexually Transmitted Infection

Genprobe Aptima Swab Transport

PREFERRED USE: Amplified GC & Chlamydia

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The white transport swab found in the collection kit is for clearing or removing of mucous only. It is essential that the proper blue swab sample be sent in the transport tube.

This assay is FDA approved for use on populations 16 years of age or older. For younger populations, where sexual abuse is suspected, submit specimens for culture.

Genprobe Aptima Urine Transport

PREFERRED USE: Amplified GC & Chlamydia from male and female urine samples only.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The sample should initially be collected in a sterile urine cup and transferred into the Aptima urine transport tube within 24 hours of collection. It is important to fill to the appropriate level within the black lines indicated on the tube. Tubes that are received over or under-filled will be rejected. Samples delivered to the laboratory within the same day of collection can be submitted in the initial urine collection cup.

Jembec Transport

PREFERRED USE: For the solution of Nissleia prasina from all sites. The initial sample is taken with a routine bacterial culturette and swabbed onto the surface of the Jembec Plate.

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Parapaks must indicate use for Ova and Parasite.

Influenza A/B/RSV PCR Collection Kit

PreferreD Use: For preservation of stool for extended transport times are expected (beyond 12 hours).

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Parapaks must indicate use for Ova and Parasite.

Stool

ECOFIX O&P Protective 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 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 Ova & Parasite vial must indicate use for Ova and parasites.

Virology/Chlamydia

Remel Viral/Chlamydia Collection Kit

PreferreD USE: Vial Culture including Influenza, Herpes, Parainfluenza, Rhinovirus, CMV, Varicella virus, Adenovirus, Enterovirus and RSV. Chlamydia culture

ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR: N/A

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.

Womens Health

BD Affirm VP1II ATTS

PREFERRED USE: Vaginos screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginialis and Trichomons 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 Thin Prep.

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

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

Starplex Starswab II

PreferreD USE: Vaginos screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginialis and Trichomons 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. If a single swab is submitted for culture and gram stain, a gram stain will not be performed.
**Blood**

**BD Bectec 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 Pediaculture 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 the transport kit is a paddle 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 Naesopharynx and urethra. If larger areas are being cultured, use a regular swab.

**BD BBL Port-a-cul**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For transport of swabs, sterile fluids and tissues for *ANAEROBIC* bacterial culture.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** These transport tubes are for use when culturing for anaerobic bacteria. They cannot be used for Acid-fast or fungal cultures and can affect the growth of some strict anaerobic bacteria.

**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 which cannot easily be collected with a culture swab.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** If urine is collected in a sterile cup, refrigerate immediately to prevent bacterial overgrowth. It is beneficial to refrigerate the samples to reduce overgrowth of bacteria. A 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.

**BBL Cuturelswab**  
**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 General 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.

**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.

**Sexually Transmitted Infection**

**Genprobe Aptima Swab Transport**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Amplicor GC & Chlamydia  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The swab included in the transport kit is a paddle 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 Naesopharynx and urethra. If larger areas are being cultured, use a regular swab.

**Genprobe Aptima Urine Transport**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Amplicor GC & Chlamydia from male and female urine samples only.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The sample should initially be collected in a sterile urine cup and transferred into the Aptima urine transport tube within 24 hours of collection. It is important to fill to the appropriate level, within the black lines indicated on the tube. Tubes that are received over or under-filled will be rejected. Samples delivered to the laboratory within the same day of collection can be submitted in the initial urine collection cup.

**Stool**

**ECOFIX QP & Preservative Parapak**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For preservation of stool for *Anaerobic* bacterial culture.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The swab included in the transport kit is a paddle 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 Naesopharynx and urethra. If larger areas are being cultured, use a regular swab.

**Carey Blair Stool Culture Preservative Parapak**  
**PREFERRED USE:** For preservation of stool for *Aerobic* bacterial culture where extended transport times are expected (beyond 12 hours).  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Parapaks should be placed in the lab 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.

**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 should have a needle in the cap which is necessary for the filling of the tubes. Care must be taken to ensure this needle is covered prior to transport.

**Virolology/Chlamydia**

**Rnelm Viral/Chlamydia Collection Kit**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Viral Culture including Influenza, Herpes, Parainfluenza, Rhinovirus, CMV, Varicella virus, Adenovirus, Enterovirus and HSV.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** N/A  

**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 site that has been collected.

**Womens Health**

**BD Affirm VP11 ATTS**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Vp1 signaling screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginallis 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 cervical specimens.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** High Risk HPV and GCHlamydia testing.  

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A  

**Starplex Starswab II**  
**PREFERRED USE:** Vp1 signaling screen for Candida albicans, Gardnerella vaginallis and Trichomonas vaginalis.  
**ALSO ACCEPTABLE FOR:** Routine bacterial culture of aerobes and anaerobes, 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 Auto-Fast Culture.
Overview

ACM Medical Laboratory, Inc., a division of Unity Health System is a full-service testing laboratory with operations in the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, China and India. ACM Medical Laboratory has 39 years of experience conducting laboratory testing offering a powerful combination of robust global capabilities, operational and scientific expertise and unsurpassed service. The organization performs 15 million tests each year, featuring more than 1,600 individual tests spanning all medical disciplines including pathology, microbiology and flow cytometry.

Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostic Services

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Additional Information

For up-to-date test information go to
http://referencemanual.acmlab.com/search/