

Microbiology Department Specimen Container Guide



For patient safety reasons, please ensure request form and sample complies with the Minimum Identification Criteria.

The Request Form and Specimen must have 4 out of 5 of the following identifiers:

- NHS Number
- Patient's surname (or coded identifier)
- Patient's forename
- Date of Birth
- Hospital Number






Please use patient ICE labels if available

Please check expiry dates of specimen container and ensure it is stored as indicated below prior to use.






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Dept/Site : Microbiology		Doc Ref: EMC-QUP-011 App 1	Author: E. Meader
Revision: 4	Issued: 05/02/21	Authorised by: R. Prakash	Review interval: Annual

	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>		<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Yellow top urine collection cup</p> <p>Green topped vacutainer which contains boric acid as a preservative</p> <p>For routine urine culture and microscopy – both MSUs and CSUs</p> <p>Do NOT Use Lithium Heparin tubes</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Red topped 7ml universal container which contains boric acid as a preservative for paediatric patients</p> <p>For routine urine culture and microscopy – both MSUs and CSUs</p> <p>Please do not send urine in boric acid for Mycobacteria investigations but send a plain white universal container</p>		
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Blue topped 30 ml universal container with a spoon</p> <p>For faeces samples both bacteriology and virology</p> <p>Faeces specimens are not processed for Mycobacteria investigations</p>		
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>White topped 30 ml universal container</p> <p>For e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sputum samples (routine respiratory and Mycobacteria investigations) • BALS routine respiratory and Mycobacteria investigations) • Joint fluids/aspirates • Skin/hair/nails for mycology • Urines for virology/Mycobacteria • CSFs • IUCD • Tips and lines 		





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	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Black topped swab with Amies transport medium</p> <p>For all bacteriological swab investigations including MRSA screens from GP and community locations that cannot use the MRSA Broth system</p> <p>Cough swabs for respiratory bacteriology including Mycobacteria investigations. However, sputum specimens are preferred</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Orange topped ENT fine wire swab with Amies transport medium</p> <p>For ear swabs for bacteriological investigations from ENT</p> <p>Also for Bordetella pertussis investigations</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Blue topped fine wire per nasal dry swab</p> <p>For investigation of whooping cough</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Pack containing green topped liquid virus transport medium (VTM) and a swab</p> <p>For all virological swab investigations</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Dry swab used for some rapid PCR pathways</p>

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	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Orange pack containing white topped liquid transport medium and a swab (Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit)</p> <p>For vaginal swab, rectal swab, pharynx swab, eye swab, and penile meatal swab specimens for <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>/<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> PCR testing</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Exact packaging can vary. Inactivating media for use with the Liat point-of-care testing</p> <p>MUST NOT COME INTO CONTACT WITH BLEACH – DANGER OF TOXIC GAS</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Yellow pack containing white topped liquid transport medium and a swab (Aptima Urine Specimen Collection Kits for Male and Female Urine Specimens).</p> <p>For urine samples for <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>/<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> PCR testing</p>
	<p>Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Blood culture bottles</p> <p>Yellow topped are for paediatrics patients. The green and purple topped bottles comprise one blood culture set for all other patients</p>
	<p>Store in the fridge before use</p>	<p>MRSA broths - for use in hospital locations only.</p> <p>Use with white break-off swab</p>

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 <p style="text-align: right; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Copan double headed swab with gel transport medium.</p> <p>For Carbapenemase (CPE) screening in hospital settings</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Plastic Blood Collection Tubes with EDTA</p> <p>For PCR-based tests such as HIV viral load, hepatitis C viral load and genotyping, EBV/CMV viral load and meningococcal PCR</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Plastic Blood Collection Tubes with clot activator and polymer gel</p> <p>For serology investigations such as hepatitis screening and varicella zoster immunity screens.</p> <p>Hepatitis C genotyping can also be carried out using this sample type</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Plastic Blood Collection Tubes with Sodium Citrate and/or Lithium Heparin.</p> <p>For blood and bone marrow for Mycobacteria investigations.</p> <p>Do NOT use tubes containing EDTA</p> <p>Please send up to 20mL of blood</p>

After sample collection, please refrigerate if there will be a **delay** in transport to the lab, APART FROM **BLOOD CULTURES – THESE MUST BE KEPT AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURE.**

Please call 01603 288587 for advice if required