

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.

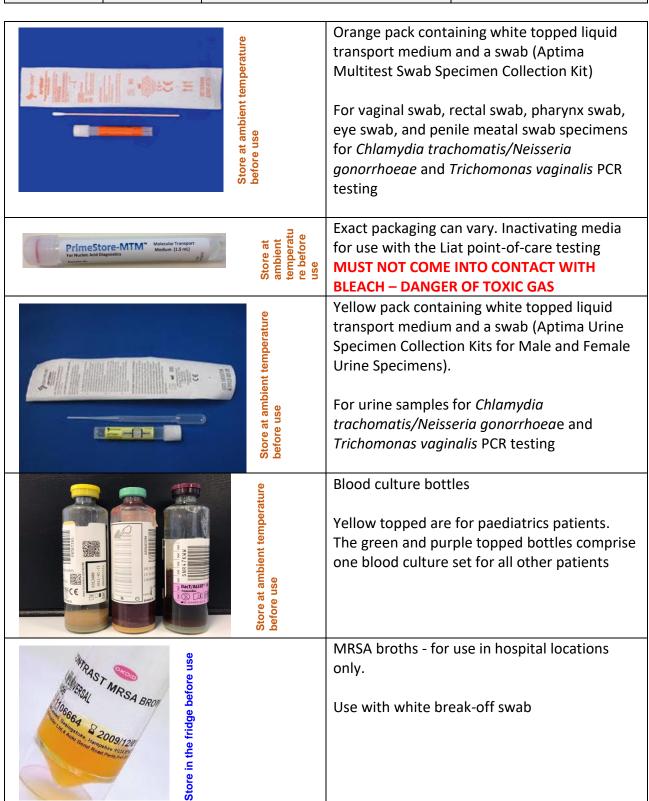
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Dept/Site : Microbiology		Doc Ref: EMC-QUP-011 App 1	Author: E. Meader
Revision: 4	Issued: 05/02/21	Authorised by: R. Prakash	Review interval: Annual

Store at ambient temperature before use Store at ambient temperature before use	Yellow top urine collection cup Green topped vacutainer which contains boric acid as a preservative For routine urine culture and microscopy – both MSUs and CSUs Do NOT Use Lithium Heparin tubes
Store at ambient temperature before use	Red topped 7ml universal container which contains boric acid as a preservative for paediatric patients For routine urine culture and microscopy – both MSUs and CSUs Please do not send urine in boric acid for Mycobacteria investigations but send a plain white universal container
Store at ambient temperature before use	Blue topped 30 ml universal container with a spoon For faeces samples both bacteriology and virology Faeces specimens are not processed for Mycobacteria investigations
Store at ambient temperature before use	 White topped 30 ml universal container For e.g.: 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

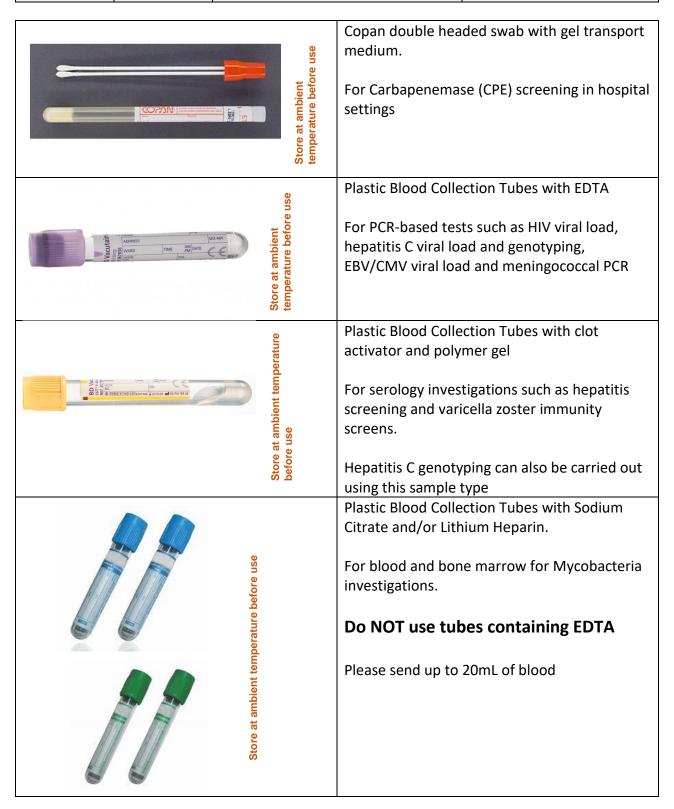
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	Store at ambient temperature before use	Black topped swab with Amies transport medium For all bacteriological swab investigations including MRSA screens from GP and community locations that cannot use the MRSA Broth system Cough swabs for respiratory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

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

Please call 01603 288587 for advice if required