



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.






Eastern Pathology Alliance		Microbiology Specimen Container Guide	Page 2 of 6
Dept/Site : Microbiology		Doc Ref: EMC-QUP-011 App 1	Author: Sara Grundy
Revision: 5	Issued:30.08.2022	Authorised by: Reenesh 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 • Nails for mycology • Urines for virology/Mycobacteria • CSFs • IUCD • Tips and lines






Eastern Pathology Alliance		Microbiology Specimen Container Guide	Page 3 of 6
Dept/Site : Microbiology		Doc Ref: EMC-QUP-011 App 1	Author: Sara Grundy
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 <p style="text-align: center; color: orange;">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 style="text-align: center; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Fungal transport packet for skin and hair samples. If unavailable collect specimen in preferably dark paper, fold and place in universal container.</p> <p>Nail samples are preferred in a universal due to larger size of sample.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center; color: orange;">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 style="text-align: center; color: orange;">Store at ambient temperature before use</p>	<p>Blue topped fine wire per nasal dry swab</p> <p>For investigation of whooping cough</p>


Eastern Pathology Alliance	Microbiology Specimen Container Guide	Page 4 of 6
Dept/Site : Microbiology	Doc Ref: EMC-QUP-011 App 1	Author: Sara Grundy
Revision: 5	Issued:30.08.2022	Authorised by: Reenesh Prakash
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	<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>
	<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>

Eastern Pathology Alliance		Microbiology Specimen Container Guide	Page 5 of 6
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	<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. Always check use by dates as bottles out of day within 5 days of processing can not be processed on analyser.</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>
	<p>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>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>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>Antibiotic assays in blood also use this bottle.</p>

Eastern Pathology Alliance		Microbiology Specimen Container Guide	Page 6 of 6
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	<p>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>
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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