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| **Specimen and Requisition Requirements**  All specimens received in the Laboratory must be clearly labeled with:   * the patient’s first and last name, * HCN * Date of Birth * Collector’s initials * Date of collection * Time of Collection * Specimens must be accompanied by a completed requisition, including patient’s first and last name, Date of birth, Health card number as well as physician name, clinical notes, the collection date, collection time and collector’s name, as well as the Patient Information Form. (NNZ-F-LS-0023)   Ensure that specimens are not leaking and are delivered to the Laboratory within 1.5 hours. Some specimens specify quicker delivery time required. Please note the date and time of last dose if drug testing is requested.  **Information for collection of Transfusion Medicine specimens:**  Accurate patient identification is critical. Follow Nova Scotia Health policy on Patient Identification located on NSH Intranet OP3-CL-SR-025. Follow Transfusion Medicine collection criteria located in the Venipuncture for Blood Specimen Collection NSH CL-BP-040.  All Inpatients and ER patients must be wearing an armband before they are collected.  Information required on requisition and specimen:  i) Full patient name (First and Last Name)  ii) Patient date of birth and patient Health Card Number (HCN)  iii) Phlebotomist and witness must sign the requisition with first and last name, date, and time. Initials will not be accepted. Phlebotomist must also add their Meditech ID for inpatient and outpatient collections. Signature must be legible.  iv) Phlebotomist must initial, date and time the specimen label as well as add their Meditech ID for inpatient and outpatient collections. Witness must initial.  v) If specimen label is handwritten, it must contain, first and last name, HCN, date and time of collection and initials of collector. Do not apply Meditech label over pertinent information.  All specimens being drawn for Transfusion Medicine must be **witnessed by a health care professional** working on that unit (witness cannot be a visitor or patient or clerical staff such as ward clerk). This applies to any blood collection for blood bank within ER, ambulatory care or inpatient. The **witness must watch the collection**, sign the requisition label, and initial the labels once they have been placed on the tube. In Outpatient collections or an outpatient setting such as pre-admission the patient or caregiver can be the witness.  **Tests Not in Catalogue**  Please view Capital Health Test Catalogue on NSH Intranet or ICL catalogue for tests not performed at Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre. Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre Collection Service at 902-6667-5400 ext 6477 for information on tests not found in these catalogues.  Information for sample type and collection instructions of microbiology specimens not found in this catalogue may be found in the provincial microbiology user’s manual.  **Collection, Handling and Transport Instructions**  The specimens need to be properly collected, processed, packaged, and transported in accordance with laboratory policies and procedures, in a timely manner and under conditions that will not compromise either the integrity of the specimen or patient confidentiality. Transportation must be compliant with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Act. Please ensure no patient information is visible when packaging specimens to be transported to the laboratory.  It is essential that an adequate volume/ quantity of specimen be submitted for analysis. Minimum volume/ quantity information is provided in each catalogue listing whenever applicable.  Hemolyzed or lipemic specimens may alter certain test results and may be rejected.  All blood and urine specimens being dropped off must follow the guidelines of the independent phlebotomist agreement (<http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/doing-business-us/independent-phlebotomy>  For Microbiology tests not found in this manual please view Provincial Microbiology User’s Manual PPHLN – M0008-02  LABORATORY TEST CATALOGUE  **24 Hour Urine Calcium**  Mnemonic **U24CA**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **24 Hour Calcium Creatinine Plus Ratio**  Mnemonic **U24CACREAT**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to QE2**  **24 Hour Urine Chloride**  Mnemonic **U24CL**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **24 Hour Urine Cortisol**  Mnemonic **U24CORT**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to QE2**  **24 Hour Urine Creatinine**  Mnemonic **U24CREAT**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative recommended or**  **25mL 6N HCL additive is acceptable**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **24 Hour Urine Magnesium**  Mnemonic **U24MG**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container with 25mL 6N HCL additive**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **24 Hour Urine Microalbumin**  Mnemonic **U24MALB**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **24 Hour Urine Osmolality**  Mnemonic **U24OSMO**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **24 Hour Urine Potassium**  Mnemonic **U24K**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **24 Hour Urine Total Protein**  Mnemonic **U24TP**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **24 Hour Urine Urea**  Mnemonic **U24UREA**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **24 Hour Urine Uric Acid**  Mnemonic **U2URIC**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container with 10mL of 5% NaOH additive**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **24 Hour Urine Sodium**  Mnemonic **U24NA**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **24 Hour Urine Container – No Preservative**  Special Instructions **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **Acetaminophen (Tylenol)**  Mnemonic **ACET**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours** |
| **Activated Partial Thromboplastin** **Time**  Mnemonic  **PTT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **2.7 mL 3.2% sodium citrate (light blue)**  Special Instructions **Sample must be filled to line; inadequate volume will result in  specimen rejection.**  For Lab Use only:  **Spin heparinized patients within one hour of collection and non-**  **heparinized within 4 hours of collection.**  **Albumin**  Mnemonic **ALB** Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours**  **Albumin/Creatinine Ratio Urine**  Mnemonic **U ACR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container >3 mL** |
| **Alcohol (Ethanol)**  Mnemonic **ETOH**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark** **green) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  For Lab use only **Cannot be added on if alcohol swab is used. Must be spun within**   **2 hours** |
| **Alkaline Phosphatase**  Mnemonic **ALK**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours** |
| **Alanine Amino Transferase**  Mnemonic **ALT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours** |
| **Amylase**  Mnemonic **AMY**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: M**ust be spun within 2 hours** |
| **Anaplasma**  Mnemonic  **ANAPLASMA**  Specimen **Serum and Plasma**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL SST (gold) and one lavender EDTA**  Special Instructions **Onset of Symptoms required**  For Lab Use only: **Allow to clot for one hour before centrifuging.** |
| **Arterial Cord Blood Gas**  Mnemonic  **ACOBG**  Specimen **Cord Blood**  Collection Tube **Syringe**  Special Instructions **Transport at room temperature**  Stability  **Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes. Please use clot catcher when running.**  **Arterial Blood Gas**  Mnemonic  **ABG**  Specimen **Arterial sample**  Collection Tube **Syringe**  Special Instructions **Transport at room temperature**  Stability **Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a**  **maximum of 60 minutes** |
| **Aspartate Amino Transferase**  Mnemonic **AST**  Specimen  **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **must be spun within 2 hours**  **Babesia**  Mnemonic  **BABESIA**  Specimen **Serum and Plasma**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL SST (gold) and one lavender EDTA**  Special Instructions **Onset of Symptoms required.**  For Lab Use only: **Allow to clot for one hour before centrifuging.**  **Bilirubin, Direct**  Mnemonic **BILD**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  Special Instructions **Must be spun within 2 hours**  Stability **Protect from light**  **Bilirubin, Total**  Mnemonic **BILT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green**  Special Instructions **Must be spun within 2 hours**  Stability **Protect from light** |
| **Blood Bank Crossmatch**  Mnemonic **GRRH & ABS & RC**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **1 x 7 ml EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition and tube labelled to Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1. Watch for patient markers and collect accordingly.** |
| **Blood Bank Hold**  Mnemonic  **BBHOLD**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **1 x 7 ml EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition and tube labelled to Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1. Watch for patient markers and collect accordingly.**  **Blood Group and Antibody Screen**  Mnemonic **GRRH & ABS**  Specimen  **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **1 x 7 ml EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition and tube labelled to Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1. Watch for patient markers and collect accordingly.**  **Blood Bank Confirmatory Group and RH**  Mnemonic **CGRRH**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube  **1 x 3 or 4 mL EDTA (mauve), or 1 x 4 mL no additive (red)**  Special Instructions **Must have different collection time from the Group and Screen**  **(Can be ordered by lab staff only)**  **Blood Bank Prenatal**  Mnemonic **GRRH & ABS**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **1 x 7 ml EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition and tube labelled to blood bank  standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1. Watch for patient markers and collect accordingly.**  **Blood Bank CRHCC Pre-OP (CC.PACL)**  Mnemonic **GRRH & ABS**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **3 x 7 mL EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition and tube labelled to blood bank  standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1**  **Body Fluids – Albumin**  Mnemonic **BFALB**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – ALT**  Mnemonic **BFALT**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  Special Instructions **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Amylase**  Mnemonic **BFAMY**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Cell Count/Differential**  Mnemonic **BFCC**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid, Synovial fluid**  Collection Tube **1 x 3 or 4ml EDTA (mauve)**  For Lab use only: **Must be tested within 2 hours of collection to maintain cell**  **integrity, if delayed keep at 2-80C**  **Body Fluids – Cholesterol**  Mnemonic **BFCHOL**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours**  **Body Fluids – Creatinine**  Mnemonic **BFCREAT**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Crystal**  Mnemonic **BFCRYS**  Specimen **Synovial fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use Only **Do Not Spin**  **Body Fluids – Glucose**  Mnemonic **BFGLU**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – LDH**  Mnemonic **BFLDH**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – pH**  Mnemonic **BFPH**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid, Synovial fluid**  Collection Tube **Lithium Heparin Syringe – transport on ice**  For Lab Use only: **Optimal analysis is within 60 minutes of collection, acceptable up to 4 hours refrigerated (4°C). Minimum volume 1.0 mL sample. Please use clot catcher when running.**  **Body Fluids – Potassium**  Mnemonic **BFK**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Sodium**  Mnemonic **BFNA**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Total Bilirubin**  Mnemonic **BFBILT**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Total Protein**  Mnemonic **BFTP**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Triglyceride**  Mnemonic **BFTRIG**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  Special Instructions **Must be spun within 2 hours**  **Body Fluids – Urea**  Mnemonic **BFUREA**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Body Fluids – Uric Acid**  Mnemonic **BFURIC**  Specimen **Peritoneal fluid, Pericardial fluid, Pleural fluid**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection** |
| **Brain Natriuretic Peptide** |
| Mnemonic **PROBNP-NT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Ca125**  Mnemonic **CA-125**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL SST (gold) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours, allow to clot for one hour**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester** |
| **Calcium, Total**  Mnemonic **CA**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab Use only: **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Calcium, Random (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UCAR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Calcium Creatinine Ratio**  Mnemonic **UCA-CREAR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  Special Instructions **N/A**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Capillary Blood Gas**  Mnemonic **CBG**  Specimen **Capillary x 2**  Collection Tube **Heparin coated capillary tube (70uL)**  Special Instructions **Must be well mixed by flea and magnet. Transport at room temperature**  Stability **Sample must be run within 15 minutes of collection. Cancel specimen if > 15 minutes old.** |
| **Carbamazepine**  Mnemonic **CARB**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL no additive (red), do not use gel separators**  Special **Instructions Date and time of last dose required.**  For Lab Use Only  **Allow to clot for one hour. Referred to Colchester.**  **Carcinoembryonic Antigen**  Mnemonic **CEA**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for one hour, Referred to Colchester**  **Chloride, Random (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UCLR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container** |
| **Complete Blood Count**  Mnemonic **CBC**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **4 ml EDTA (mauve) or 3 ml EDTA (mauve)**  **Lab Use Only must be analyzed within 8 hours**    **Cholesterol Level**  Mnemonic  **CHOL  Order LIPID if TRIG, LDL, HDL are ordered as well**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)** For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Creatine Phosphokinase**  Mnemonic  **CK**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)** For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**    **Cold Agglutinins Titre**  Mnemonic **COLD**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **1 x 10mL red top (no anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Do not refrigerate**  For Lab Use Only **Allow to clot for one hour. Test must be set up day of collection**  **Cord DAT**  Mnemonic **CORD DAT**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **1x 7 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (mauve) or 10 ml red top (no**  **anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition labeled to TM standards. See specimen**  **and req requirements on page 1.**  **Cord GRRH**  Mnemonic **CORD GRRH**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube  **1x 7 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (mauve) or 10 ml red top (no**  **anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition labeled to TM standards. See specimen**  **and req requirements on page 1.**  **Cord HOLD**  Mnemonic **CORD HOLD**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **1x 7 mL EDTA (pink) or 4 mL EDTA (mauve) or 10 ml red top (no**  **anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Complete BB requisition labeled to TM standards. See specimen**  **and req requirements on page 1.**  **Cortisol – 30 Minutes**  Mnemonic **CORT30MIN**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  Special Instructions **Sample drawn 30 minutes post dose.**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Cortisol – 60 minutes**  Mnemonic **CORT60MIN**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  Special Instructions **Sample drawn 60 minutes post dose.**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Cortisol – AM-**  Mnemonic **CORTAM**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  Special Instructions **Collect sample between 0700-0900**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**    **Cortisol – PM**  Mnemonic **CORTPM**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  Special Instructions **Collect sample between 1500-1700**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Cortisol – Random**  Mnemonic **CORT**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Creatinine**  Mnemonic **EGFR ordered on outpatients, CREAT ordered on inpatients**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Creatinine (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UCREATR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  **C-Reactive Protein**  Mnemonic **HS-CRP**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  **Cerebrospinal Fluid – Total Protein**  Mnemonic **CSFTP**  Specimen **Cerebrospinal Fluid**  Collection Tube **Sterile CSF Containers**  Special Instructions **Tube #2 if it is a bleed, do not send in pneumatic tube system**  Stability **Test within 30 minutes of collection**  Centrifuge **Urinalysis, Program 6**    **Cerebrospinal Fluid – Glucose**  Mnemonic **CSFGLU**  Specimen **Cerebrospinal Fluid**  Collection Tube **Sterile CSF Containers**  Special Instructions **Tube #1 if it is an infection, do not send in pneumatic tube  system**  Stability **Test within 30 minutes of collection**  Centrifuge **Urinalysis, Program 6**  **Cerebrospinal Fluid – Cell Count**  Mnemonic **CSFCC**  Specimen **Cerebrospinal Fluid**  Collection Tube **Sterile CSF Containers**  Special Instructions **Tube #1 and #4 if it is a bleed. Tube #2 if it is an infection, do not   send in pneumatic tube system**  Stability **Tested within 30 minutes of collection**  **Direct Antiglobulin Test (Coombs)**  Mnemonic **DAT**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **1 x 7ml EDTA pink top (EDTA)**  Special Instructions **Complete the BB Requisition and tube labelled to Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1**  **D-Dimer Quantitative**  Mnemonic **DDQUAN**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **2.7 ml 3.2% sodium citrate (blue)**  Special Instructions **Tube needs to be filled to the line and tested within 6 hours of**  **Collection**  **Digoxin**  Mnemonic **DIG**  Specimen **Plasma or serum**  Collection Tube **4 ml lithium heparin (dark green) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  Special Instructions **Indicate time of last dose**  **Dilantin (Phenytoin)**  Mnemonic **PHNY**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube  **4 mL no additive (red) or 4 mL lithium heparin (dark green). Do   not use gel separators**  Special Instructions **Last dose needs to be noted in Meditech with date and time**  **Electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium & Chloride)**  Mnemonic **LYTES**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate**  Mnemonic **ESR**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **4 mL EDTA (mauve)**  Special Instructions **At least 2.5ml of specimen is required for testing**  **Lab Use only Test within 4 hours at RT, 8 hours at 2-80C**  **Estradiol**  Mnemonic **EST**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour, Referred to Colchester**  **Ferritin**  Mnemonic  **FER**  Specimen **Serum SST, Plasma**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold), 3 mL lithium heparin (light**  **green) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  For Lab Use Only **Allow to clot for 1 hour**  **Fetal Fibronectin**  Mnemonic **FFIBR**  Specimen **Cervicovaginal swab**  Collection Tube **200 µL of sample required in 1 mL extraction buffer tube**  Special Instructions **Do not send in pneumatic tube system**  **Fibrinogen Screen**  Mnemonic  **FIB**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **2.7 ml 3.2% sodium citrate (blue)**  Special Instructions **Tube must be filled to the line**  Lab Use only **Test within 6 hours unless double spun, plasma removed and**  **Frozen**  **Folate**  Mnemonic **FOL**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube  **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)** Special Instructions **Folate is light sensitive, limit specimen exposure to light prior to**  **testing, allow to clot for 30 mins. Must have “Do Not Cancel” or**  **“hem” on req.**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour, referred to Colchester**    **Free T3**  Mnemonic **FT3**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)**  For Lab Use Only **Allow to clot for 1 hour, referred to Colchester**  **Free T4**  Mnemonic **FT4**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)**  For Lab Use Only **Allow to clot for 1 hour**  **Follicle-Stimulating HHormone**  Mnemonic  **FSH**  Specimen **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold)**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour, referred to Colchester**  **Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase**  Mnemonic **GGT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tube (light green)**  **Gentamicin Post**  Mnemonic **GENTPOST**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 ml no additive (red) or 4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  Special Instructions **Collect sample 30 minutes after dosage**  **Gentamicin Pre**  Mnemonic **GENTPRE**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 ml no additive (red) or 4 mL lithium heparin (dark green)**  Special Instructions **Collect sample 30 minutes prior dosage**  **Gentamicin Random**  Mnemonic **GENTR**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL no additive (red) or 4 mL lithium heparin (dark green), do**  **not use gel separator tubes**  Special Instructions **Collect sample 30 minutes after dosage**    **Glucose AC**  Mnemonic **GLUAC**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  Special Instructions **Fasting 8 hours**  **Glucose Loading Dose (50gm Oral Drink)- Gestational**  Mnemonic **GTTLOAD**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only **Collect a blood sample one hour after the 50-gram glucose drink   is finished. No fasting required.**  **Glucose Monitor**  Mnemonic **GLUM**  Specimen **Finger prick**  Collection Tube **N/A**  Special Instructions **Nurse to draw**  **Glucose PC**  Mnemonic **GLUPC**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  Special Instructions **2 hours after last meal. See specific dietary instructions**  **Glucose Random**  Mnemonic **GLUR**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only  **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Glucose Tolerance Test (75gm Oral Dose)**  Mnemonic **GTT**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For lab use only  **Collect a blood sample two hours after the 75-gram glucose drink   is finished. 8 hours fast required**  **Glucose Tolerance Test (75gm Oral Drink) – Gestational**  Mnemonic **GTTG**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only **Collect blood samples one hour and two hours after the 75 grams   glucose drink is finished. 8 hours fast required.**  **HCG Quantitative**  Mnemonic **HCGSQ**  Specimen  **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  **HDL Cholesterol**  Mnemonic **HDL  Order LIPID if LDL, CHOL, and TRIG ordered as well**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  Special Instructions **Patient must fast 12 hours prior to collection**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**    **H.Pylori Antigen**  Mnemonic **STHPAG**  Specimen **Stool**  Collection Tube **Sterile container**  Special Instructions **If sent from another site, keep frozen.**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**    **Hemoglobin A1C**  Mnemonic **A1C**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **3- or 4-ml mauve (EDTA)**  **Hepatitis B Surface Antibody**  Mnemonic **HEPBSAB**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **10 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  For Lab use only  **Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after**  **collecting, Referred to Colchester**  **Hepatitis B Surface Antigen**  Mnemonic **HEPBSAG**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **10 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  For lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after**  **collecting, Referred to Colchester**  **Hepatitis C Antibody**  Mnemonic  **HEPC**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **10 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  For Lab use only  **Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after collecting, Referred to Colchester**  **HIV 1/2 Antibody**  Mnemonic **HIV**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **10 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Allow to clot for 1 hour. Test samples as soon as possible after**  **collecting, Referred to Colchester**  **Ionized Calcium**  Mnemonic **CAION**  Specimen **Plasma-PST**  Collection Tube  **3 mL Lithium Heparin plasma separator tube. (Light green tube)**  Stability  **Place on ice immediately after collection.**  Centrifuge **Must be centrifuge within 2 hours of collection**  For Lab Use Only **After centrifugation samples should remain capped and kept cold**  **prior to analysis.**  **Indirect Antiglobulin Test**  Mnemonic **IDAT**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **1-x 7 ml EDTA (pink)**  Special Instructions **Complete the BB Requisition and tube labelled to Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1.**  **Iron**  Mnemonic **IRON**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 mL serum separator tube (gold), 4 mL no-additive (red)**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Kleihauer**  Mnemonic **KLQ**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **1 x 7ml pink top tube (EDTA)**  Special Instructions **Must be drawn within 18 hours of time of delivery or suspected  hemorrhage.**  **Lactate**  Mnemonic **LACW**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **4 mL dark green (Lithium heparin)**  Special Instructions **Transport at room temperature**  Stability **Must be tested within 30 minutes of collection**  For Lab Use Only **Do not spin**  **Lactate Dehydrogenase**  Mnemonic **LDH**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  Special Instructions **Must have clinical note to be tested**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection. Must have   clinical note to be tested**  **LDL Cholesterol, calculated**  Mnemonic **LDL  Order LIPID if HDL, CHOL, and TRIG ordered as well**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  Special Instructions **Patient must fast 12 hours prior to collection**  For Lab Use Only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection.**  **Lipase**  Mnemonic  **LIP**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only  **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **maximum limit of 2 hours from time of collection**  **Lithium**  Mnemonic **LI**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 ml red (no anticoagulant) or sodium heparin (Do not use gel**  **separators)**  For Lab use only  **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  Special Instructions **Do not use tubes containing Lithium Heparin**  **Luteinizing Hormone**  Mnemonic **LH**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour, referred to Colchester**  **Magnesium**  Mnemonic **MG**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube  **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only  **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Magnesium (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UMGR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Malaria Smear**  Mnemonic  **MAL**  Specimen  **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **4 ml mauve (EDTA)**  Stability  **Room temperature-deliver to lab within 4 hours**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to QEII, must be received within 3 days**  **Microalbumin (Screen)**  Mnemonic **U ACR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Urine**  **Mononucleosis**  Mnemonic  **MONO**  Specimen  **Serum or Plasma**  Collection Tube **1 x 3 ml red or 1x 3 ml gold SST (no anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Haemolyzed and/or contaminated samples cannot be tested.**  For Lab Use Only **Red tube should be allowed to clot for 1 hour before separation,**  **30 minutes for SST. Aliquot and freeze if testing not performed on**  **the same day as collected**  **Occult Blood**  Mnemonic **STOB1, STOB2, STOB3**  Specimen **Stool**  Collection Tube **Hemoccult stool collection card**  Special Instructions **Hemoccult occult blood test is not to be used with gastric   specimens. Collection instructions can be provided**  **Osmolality – Plasma/Serum**  Mnemonic **OSMO**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin (light green), 3.5 ml stoppered serum**  **separator (gold) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  For Lab use only **Do not uncap specimen, Referred to Colchester**  **Osmolality – Urine**  Mnemonic **UOSMO**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container, random urine or 24-hour collection non  preservative**  For Lab use only **Do not uncap specimen, Referred to Colchester**    **Phosphorous**  Mnemonic **PHOS**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collections**  **Platelet Function Assay Referred to Aberdeen**  Mnemonic **PFA100**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **2.7 ml blue (3.2% sodium citrate)**  Special Instructions **Tube must be filled to the line. Do not refrigerate. Physicians will**  **call to schedule the collection of this test. Refer to Aberdeen**  **Hospital for testing and shipping instructions**  Stability  **4 hours at room temperature**  **For Lab use only Call Aberdeen to inform them of a PFA being sent**  **POC Glucose**  Mnemonic **POC Glucose**  Specimen **Whole blood**  Collection Tube **N/A**  Special Instructions **Wipe away first drop of blood with gauze**  **Potassium (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UKR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  **Pre-Albumin**  Mnemonic  **PREALB**  Specimen **Serum SST, Plasma**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube, or 3 mL lithium**  **heparin (light green)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**    **Pregnancy Test (Urine)**  Mnemonic **HCG**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Urine**  **Prolactin**  Mnemonic **PROL**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube or 4 mL no additive**  **(red)**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Prostate-Specific Antigen**  Mnemonic **PSA**  Specimen **Serum or Plasma**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube, or 3 mL lithium**  **heparin (light green) or 4 mL no additive (red)**  **Protein Creatinine Ratio**  Mnemonic  **U PCR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  **PT/INR (PROTHROMBIN TIME)**  Mnemonic  **PTINR**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **2.7 ml blue (3.2% sodium citrate)**  Special Instructions **Tube must be filled to the line. Do not refrigerate**  Lab use only: **Stable for 24 hours at RT**  **Random Protein (Urine)**  Mnemonic  **UTPR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  Stability **Transport and store refrigerated upon arrival to the laboratory**  **Rapid Covid-19**  Mnemonic **COVST**  Specimen **Nasopharyngeal Specimen**  Collection Tube **UTM Swab**  Special Instructions **Floor must notify lab to perform swab as a Rapid Covid-19 (Can   be ordered by lab staff only)**  **Reticulocyte Count**  Mnemonic **RETIC**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **3 or 4ml mauve (EDTA)**  **Rheumatoid Factor**  Mnemonic  **RA**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **1 x 4 ml red tube or 1x 3ml gold SST**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour after collection for red tubes and 30 minutes to clot for gold SST. Aliquot and freeze if testing is not performed on the same day as collected.**  **Rubella IgG Antibody**  Mnemonic **RUB**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube  **4 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot for 1 hour after collection.** **Test samples as soon as   possible after collecting, referred to Colchester**  **Salicylate**  Mnemonic **SAL**  Specimen  **Serum or plasma**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green) or 4 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  **Semen Analysis**  Mnemonic **SA**  Specimen **Semen**  Collection Tube  **Sterile container**  Special Instructions **Delivered to laboratory within 30 minutes of collection and**  **maintain at 37oC**  Stability   **30 minutes**  **Semen Analysis Post Vasectomy**  Mnemonic **SAPV**  Specimen **Semen**  Collection Tube  **Sterile container**  Special Instructions **Delivered to laboratory within 30 minutes of collection and**  **maintain at 37oC**  Stability   **30 minutes**  **Sodium (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UNAR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  **Syphilis IgG Antibody**  Mnemonic **SYPHI**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **10 mL no additive (red) or 3.5 mL Gold Top SST (no additive)**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester**  **Tegretol (Carbamazepine)**  Mnemonic **CARB**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL no additive (red), do not use gel separators**  Special **Instructions Date and time of last dose required.**  For Lab Use Only  **Allow to clot for one hour. Referred to Colchester.**  **Total Iron Binding Capacity & % Saturation**  Mnemonic **TIBC**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml Gold Top SST (no anticoagulant) or 4 ml red (no**  **anticoagulant)**  For Lab use only **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection**  **Total Carbon Dioxide**  Mnemonic **CO2T**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab Use Only **Do not uncap specimens prior to testing**  **Total Protein**  Mnemonic **TP**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  **Transfusion Reaction Investigation**  Mnemonic **TRX**  Specimen **Plasma or Serum**  Collection Tube **3 x 6mL pink top (EDTA) AND 1 x 10 ml red (no anticoagulant)**  Special Instructions **Complete the BB Requisition and tube labelled Transfusion**  **Medicine standards. See specimen and requisition requirements**  **on page 1**  **Triglycerides Level**  Mnemonic  **TRIG   order LIPID if CHOL, LDL, and HDL are ordered as well**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)** Special Instructions **12 hour fast**  **Troponin I - High Sensitivity**  Mnemonic  **TROPIHS**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  For Lab use only  **Must be spun within 2 hours of collection** |
|  |
| **Thyroid Stimulating Hormone**  Mnemonic  **TSH**  Specimen  **Serum SST**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml stoppered serum separator (gold)**  For Lab use only **Allow to clot 1 hour** |
| **Urine Drug Screen**  Mnemonic                           **UDR**  Specimen                             **Urine**  Collection Tube                   **Sterile urine container – 10 mL of sample**  Specimen Stability               **48 hours at 2-8 °C**  **Urea (BUN)**  Mnemonic **UREA**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  **Urea (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UUREAR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester** |
| **Uric Acid**  Mnemonic  **URIC**  Specimen **Plasma**  Collection Tube **3 mL lithium heparin gel separator tubes (light green)**  **Uric Acid (Urine)**  Mnemonic **UURICR**  Specimen **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester** |
| **Urinalysis**  Mnemonic  **UA**  Specimen  **Urine**  Collection Tube **Sterile urine container >3 mL**  Special Instructions **Preferred sample is first morning urine, no preservatives** |
| **Vancomycin Random**  Mnemonic **VANR**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green), or 4 mL no additive (red)**  Special Instructions **Fill in the date and time of last dose. Do not use gel separators.   Sodium heparin is recommended for collection when patients   are receiving anticoagulants.** |
| **Vancomycin Trough Level**  Mnemonic  **VANPRE**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 mL lithium heparin (dark green), or 4 mL no additive (red)**  Special Instructions **Should be taken prior to next dose. Fill in the date and time of  last dose. Do not use gel separators. Sodium heparin is   recommended for collection when patients are receiving   anticoagulants.** |
| **Valproic Acid (Depakene) Level**  Mnemonic **VALP**  Specimen  **Serum**  Collection Tube **4 ml red (no anticoagulant) or sodium heparin (Do not use gel**  **separators)**  Special Instructions **Last dose needs to be noted in Meditech with date and time**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester** |
| **Venous Blood Gas (Standard and Extended)**  Mnemonic **VBG (Standard) or VBGEX (Extended)**  Specimen **Whole Blood**  Collection Tube **4 ml green (lithium heparin)**  Special Instructions **Transport at room temperature.**  Stability **Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes**  Centrifuge **Do not spin**  **Venous Cord Blood Gas**  Mnemonic  **VCOBG**  Specimen **Cord Blood**  Collection Tube **Syringe**  Special Instructions **Transport at room temperature**  Stability  **Optimal analysis is within 30 minutes of collection, to a maximum of 60 minutes. Please use clot catcher when running.**    **Vitamin B12**  Mnemonic **B12**  Specimen **Serum**  Collection Tube **3.5 ml gold stoppered serum separator tube**  Special Instructions **Allow to clot 1 hour**  For Lab Use Only **Referred to Colchester** |

MICROBIOLOGY TEST CATALOGUE

Refer to Provincial Microbiology User’s Manual PPHLN – M0008-02 for instructions and tests not found in this manual.

provincial-microbiology-users-manual.pdf

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT**

**INTRODUCTION**

This guide to specimen collection and transport provides information on the appropriate collection and handling of optimal specimens to ensure the best chance of detection of organisms causing infection. It is hoped this manual will be able to provide advice to give guidance in most circumstances. If a laboratory user has a question that remains unanswered after consulting the manual, a laboratory staff member or Microbiologist should be contacted.

Specimens often contain potentially infectious micro-organisms: consequently, it is essential that routine precautions be followed. All specimens should be considered hazardous, not only for the micro-organisms that are suspected of being present, but also for other infectious agents that are present at low prevalence in the population. As carriage of these infectious agents is often not known either to the patient or to the physician or health care worker, the best defense against infection is to assume that the specimens are infectious and to take precautions accordingly.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

* Specimens are collected to provide information about organisms that are causing infection. While these organisms can be part of the normal flora, it is important to ensure that normal flora is excluded from the specimen as much as possible.
* Pathogens may be a small component of the organisms contained within a specimen collected from a site that possesses a normal flora. Use of transport medium, and refrigeration when transportation to the laboratory is required can be important to preserve the viability of organisms to allow their detection.
* When infection is caused by a complex flora, cultures may only detect a subset of the organisms present.
* Extensive workup of isolates in these circumstances is often not helpful as results are delayed and do not reflect the range of organisms present. These specimens are reported reflecting the type of flora present.
* Treatment is best chosen empirically.
* Specimens should be collected before starting antimicrobial agents wherever possible, without compromising care
* When specimens are collected, it is important that the external surface of the specimen container and the requisition are not contaminated. Leaking specimens or specimens with evidence of external contamination will usually result in rejection of the specimen by the laboratory.
* As soon as the specimen is collected and the container appropriately labelled, the specimen container should be placed in a plastic specimen bag. The requisition should be completed and placed in the side pouch separate from the specimen container. **The requisition should not be placed in the same part of the bag as the specimen.**

**NOTE:**

* Use appropriate specimen collection material. Sterile collection material and aseptic technique must be used for collection of specimens using invasive procedures.
* For specimens from non-sterile sites, attempt to collect the specimen with as little contamination from the surrounding normal flora as possible. PPHLN: Provincial Microbiology User’s Manual - 2017

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* If a specimen is to be collected through intact skin, the skin should be disinfected thoroughly, allowing several minutes for the disinfectant to have effect. Examples of skin disinfectants include 70% alcohol, iodine solution, povidone-iodine, chlorhexidine, etc. If tincture of iodine is used, remove with 70% ethanol after procedure to prevent burning.
* An adequate amount of specimen should be collected. As a general rule, more is better than less. For example, a tube or urine container with 10 ml of pus is a better specimen than a swab. Small amountsof specimen are subject to drying, becoming aerobic, and other forms of deterioration, whereas larger volumes minimize the risk of false negative results.

**SPECIMEN IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION**

* The specimen should be collected in the standard containers available through hospital stores. These containers are selected to have low failure rates and may be selected to be compatible with instruments.
* Both the specimen container and the requisition must be labelled with two means of identification. Legal name and a government issued number are accepted. Date of birth is not acceptable as an identifier. This is an accreditation requirement. The date and time of collection must be indicated also.
* The specimen source should be clearly and completely indicated to ensure that the appropriate processing takes place. For example, a "swab of the hip" taken in the OR from the joint would be processed/interpreted quite differently from a superficial swab of a hip ulcer.
* When specific diagnoses are being considered, they may have a bearing on the processing of the specimen; these diagnoses should be indicated in the clinical detail section on the requisition to ensure that the specific questions can be answered. This is particularly important if the suspect organism is unusual or requires extraordinary processing.
* Pertinent historical data (e.g. travel, association with a known outbreak, immunosuppression, or underlying disease) should be indicated in the clinical detail section of the requisition. For example, travel history is important in detection of species of organism that are not locally endemic.

**SPECIMEN TRANSPORT – GENERAL GUIDELINES**

* Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible.
* Specimens that cannot be transported rapidly should be refrigerated, with the following exceptions:
  + - Blood cultures should be held at room temperature.
    - CSF cultures should be held at room temperature (meningococci are susceptible to cold). PPHLN: Provincial Microbiology User’s Manual
    - Skin scrapings should be kept at room temperature as dermatophytes are cold sensitive.
    - Stool cultures for bacteriology should be mixed with enteric transport medium (Carey-Blair Enteric Transport medium) and kept refrigerated.
    - Stool for parasitology should be placed in a sterile container without any preservative and kept refrigerated. If patient has travelled out of country stool should be mixed with parasite transport medium (SAF) and kept at room temperature.
    - Stool for virology or cytotoxicity (C.Diff) should be placed in a sterile container without any preservative. Store specimen refrigerated prior to transport on ice pack.
    - Swabs should be transported to the laboratory in Amies Transport Medium.
    - For anaerobic culture, as much fluid or pus as possible (up to 50ml) should be collected and sent without delay in a dry sterile container. (Swabs with Amies Transport Medium is also acceptable)

**NOTE:**

* Do not send specimens in syringes for culture. There are difficulties with maintenance of anaerobic conditions in plastic syringes. Recapping of needles is not recommended because of the risk of needle stick injury.
* If the volume of the specimen is very low, non-bacteriostatic saline (preservative free) may be drawn up and used to flush the syringe into a sterile container.

**Abscess Culture**

Mnemonic **ABSC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab,**

Special Instructions **Specify Site, this includes dental abscess and Bartholin cyst specimens**

Stability **48 hours 2-8­oC**

**AFB (TB) Culture**

Mnemonic **AFBC**

Specimen **Sputum or Bronch Wash**

Collection Tube **sterile C/S container**

Special Instructions **For blood culture for AFB see Blood Culture Mycobacteria/T**

Stability **2-80C**

**Aspirate Culture**

Mnemonic **ASPC**

Specimen

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S Container**

Special Instructions **Specify Site**

Stability **48 hours at 2 to 8˚C**

**Body Fluid Culture**

Mnemonic **BFC (Gallbladder Fluid-order as MISC)**

Specimen

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S Container add heparin and indicate addition**

Special Instructions **Includes gram stain,**

Stability **48 hours at 2 to 8˚C**

**Blood Culture Aerobic**

Mnemonic **BLDAER (Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture ordered, LIS**

**defaults to 2)**

Specimen **Add 5-10 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle**

**for pediatric patients**. **Do Not over fill culture bottles.**

Collection Tube **Appropriate Blood Culture bottle.**

Special Instructions  **Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the**

**blood culture. Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture ordered, LIS**

**defaults to 2.**

Stability **Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp**

**Blood Culture (use if aerobic and anaerobic blood cultures requested by Physician)**

Mnemonic **BLDAER and BLDANA (Change Count to 1 in LIS if only one blood culture**

**ordered, LIS defaults to 2)**

Specimen **Add 5-10 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle**

**for pediatric patients**. **Do Not over fill culture bottles.**

Collection Tube **Appropriate Blood Culture bottle.**

Special Instructions **Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the**

**blood culture.**

Stability **Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp**

**Blood Culture Mycobacteria/TB**

Mnemonic **BLTB**

Specimen **Add 3-5 ml of venous blood per adult bottle and 1-4 ml per pediatric bottle** **for**

**pediatric patients**. **Do Not over fill culture bottles.**

Collection Tube **Appropriate Blood Culture bottle must be obtained from QEII prior to**

**collection.**

Special Instructions **Discard first 1 mL of blood in a discard tube to avoid skin contamination of the**

**blood culture.**

Stability **Deliver to lab ASAP at Room Temp**

**Bone Culture (aerobic and anaerobic)**

Mnemonic **BONC**

Specimen

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S Container**

Special Instructions **Deliver to lab without delay at Room Temp**

**Clostridium difficile (Stool) (C.diff)**

Mnemonic **CDIF**

Specimen **Stool, liquid (not formed)**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S Container**

Stability   **24 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Chlamydia/GC**

Mnemonic **CHLGCPCR or UCHLGCPCR**

Specimen **Aptima** **Swab (female) Vaginal or Urine (male)**

Collection Tube **Apitma swab (female) or Sterile C/S container (male)**

Special Instructions **The preferred specimen for women remains a vaginal swab. Urine is the**

**preferred specimen for male (first 20mL voided, patient must not have**

**urinated in the past 2 hrs).**

Stability **Aptima swab 60 days at Room Temperature, refrigerate urine**

**COVID**

Special Instructions See COVID in Lab section of this manual as test is ordered in the LAB Module in LIS.

**CSF Culture**

Mnemonic **CSFC**

Specimen **CSF**

Collection Tube **CSF Collection Tube # 3**

Special Instructions **Deliver to lab ASAP**

**Ear Culture**

Mnemonic **EARC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Eye Culture**

Mnemonic **EYEC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Fungal Culture Dermatophytes**

Mnemonic **FUCD**

Specimen **Scrapings**

Collection Tube **Kit available from lab, dark paper.**

Special Instructions **See Provincial Microbiology user’s manual.**

**Fungal Culture Systemic**

Mnemonic **FUCS**

Specimen **Bronchial Wash**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S container**

Special Instructions **Test performed at QEII**

**Miscellaneous Aerobic Culture**

Mnemonic **MISC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab**

Special Instructions **Specify Site. Includes gram stain.**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Mouth Culture**

Mnemonic **MOUC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**MRSA SCREEN**

Mnemonic **MRSA Specimen**

Collection Tube **Amies Swab**

Special Instructions **Order specimens “CONG” combo nares and groin**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Ova and Parasite Screen**

Mnemonic **OPSR**

Specimen **Stool**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S container or SAF Fixative**

Special Instructions  **Test not indicated for in patents in hospital >72hrs. Indicate if travel outside of**

**country and test request will be changed to OPCT and sent to QEII for O&P**

**microscopy.**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Pinworm Examination**

Mnemonic **PINW**

Specimen **Scotch tape (shiny) collection of perianal area, attached to a glass slide**

Stability  **24 hours at room temperature**

**Placenta Culture and TRUE swabs for stillborn**

Mnemonic **MISC**

Specimen **Placenta (Maternal and Fetal) TRUE (fetus throat, Fetus rectal, Fetus umbilical,**

**Fetus ear)**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability  **48 hours at 2-80C**

**Sputum Culture**

Mnemonic **SPUC**

Specimen **C/S Container**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S container**

Special Instructions **Indicate if expectorated, suction, induced or Bronchial wash specimen.**

Stability  **24 hours at 2-80C**

**Stool Culture**

Mnemonic **STOC**

Specimen **Stool**

Collection Tube **Enteric Transport Media**

Special Instructions **Test not indicated for in patents in hospital >72hrs.**

Stability **24 hours at 2-80C**

**Stool Viral Culture**

Mnemonic **VIRC**

Specimen **Stool**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S container**

Special Instructions **Specify virus requested.** **Test will be performed at QEII.**

Stability  **24 hours at 2-80C**

**Throat Culture**

Mnemonic **THRC**

Specimen **swab**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-80C**

**Tissue Culture**

Mnemonic **TISC**

Specimen **Tissue**

Collection Tube **Sterile C/S container**

Special Instructions **Specify Site. Includes gram stain. Deliver to lab ASAP.**

Stability **Keep at room temperature and deliver to lab ASAP.**

**Trichomonas (Wet Prep Trichomonas)**

Mnemonic **TRICH**

Specimen **swab**

Collection Tube **Plain swab (SWUBE) with warm saline added and delivered to lab immediately**

**after collection.**

Special Instructions **Plain swab with warm saline added and delivered to lab immediately after**

**collection. Will be rejected if not collected properly.**

**Umbilical Culture**

Mnemonic **UMBC**

Specimen **swab**

Collection Tube  **Amies swab**

Stability **48 hours 2-8­oC**

**Urine Culture**

Mnemonic **URNC**

Specimen **urine**

Collection Tube **sterile C/S container**

Stability **Refrigerate** **2-8­oC**. M**ust be cultured within 24hs of collection.**

**Vaginal Strep Group B Screen Culture**

Mnemonic **VAGB**

Specimen **vaglrectal**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability **48 hours 2-8­oC**

**Vaginal Culture**

Mnemonic **VAGC- do not order unless than 12 years old or requested by specialist or**

**clinical indication for culture**

**Order VAGS (Vaginitis screen) for patient 12 years and older**

Specimen **Vaginal**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability  **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Vaginal >50 years-older**

Mnemonic **GRSA**

Specimen **Vaginal**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability  **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Vaginitis Screen**

Mnemonic **VAGS**

Specimen **swab**

Collection Tube **Amies swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Viral Culture**

Mnemonic **VIRC**

Specimen **swab or stool**

Collection Tube **COPAN UTM or** **Viral Transport Media for swab or sterile C/S container for**

**stool**

Special Instructions **Specify virus requested.** **Refrigeration is recommended once collected. Deliver**

**to lab ASAP.**

Stability **Refrigerate after collection and freeze if delay in sending to reference lab.**

**VRE SCREEN**

Mnemonic  **VRE**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Agar Swab for screen**

Special Instructions **Rectal Swab**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Wound Culture**

Mnemonic **WOUC**

Specimen **Swab**

Collection Tube **Amies Agar Swab**

Special Instructions **Specify Site. Includes gram stain.**

Stability **48 hours at 2-8­oC**

**Revision History**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Reason** | **Revised By** |
| 1.1 | 2022-09-19 | Updated the tube collection requirements for ionized calcium-provincial change | Leanne Carter, QTS |
| 1.2 | 2023-01-31 | CARB was listed twice in catalog but had 2 different tube types. Changed TSH to be Serum SST and removed the plasma as staff were trying to use plasma for add on testing. | Joel Scopie, Sr MLT |
| 1.3 | 2023-03-22-  2023-08-14 | CARB testing now done in CRH, revised collection requirements. Removed Tobramycin as no longer tested in NZ. Updated number of tubes to be collected for Blood Bank tests. Added cord Hold. Added Anaplasma and Babesia testing. Added Urine Drug testing. Removed urine phosphorus and 24-hour urine phosphorus as referred out to the QEII now. Removed U24 pH, changed U24 Cortisol to QE2 and added SST tube as an option for Prealbumin. | Joel Scopie, Sr MLT  Leanne Carter, QTS |
| 1.4 | 2023-12-04 | Minor revisions to urine methods – Urine CA, MG, UREA and URIC no longer tested at CCH, will best referred to CRH as of 2023-12-12. 24 hour Calcium Creatinine Plus ratio to go to the QEII. | Joel Scopie, Sr MLT |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Approver** |  |
| Name: Leanne Carter | Signature: see paper master |
| Position: Quality Technical Specialist | Date: 2023-12-06 |
| **Approver** |  |
| Name: Jim Humby | Signature: see paper master |
| Position: Northern Zone Lab Director | Date: 2023-12-06 |