Providence HEALTH CARE
How you want to be treated.

The Correct Swab/Container for the Job

Microbiology & Virology Laboratory

PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE

Sterile Container/ Sterile Syringe

CSF **

BEST option for aerobic, anaerobic and fungal cultures:

- Sputum
- Tissue/biopsies
- Sterile body fluids (eg. CSF, pleural fluid)
- Pus
- Fluids from drains

Unpreserved, direct specimen in sterile container.

Acceptable for mould or mycobacterial culture.

** Syringe: Remove needle and cap for transport.

Swab Culture (C&S)

Thin wire

Flocked eSwab

Use when tissue or fluid cannot be obtained.

- Throat culture
- Ear culture
- Eye culture
- Wound culture
- ARO screens (MRSA, VRE, CPO)
- Group B Strep screen
- Genital culture
- Bacterial vaginosis and/ or yeast culture

Do NOT use for mould or mycobacterial culture.

Blood Culture

Collect 1 aerobic (green) and 1 anerobic (orange) bottle for each set and each venipuncture.

Add 8-10 mL of blood to each bottle. Recommend 2 sets (4 bottles) within 24 hour period.

Trichomonas NAT Testing

- Vaginal

Please submit a separate swab if also requesting GC/ CT NAT Testing

- Urine

GC(gonorrhea)/CT(chlamydia) NAT Testing

Urine:

- Patient should not void for 1h prior to collection
- Collect the "**First Catch**" urine, i.e. the **first 20-30 mL of urine voided**
- Midstream urine specimens (i.e. urine C&S) are **not** suitable for STI testing

- Endocervix:
- White swab to remove excess mucous → discard, blue swab to collect specimen)
- Urethra (blue swab)

- Vaginal
- Rectum [including testing for **Lympho-granuloma venereum (LGV)]**
- Throat
- Eye

Viral NAT Testing

- Nasopharyngeal swab/wash
- Small tissue/ biopsy pieces
- Genital/skin lesion or vesicle
- Use "flocked" swab

- Sterile body fluids
- Large tissue/ biopsy pieces

** **Syringe:** Remove needle and cap for transport.

- Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF)

Molecular Infectious Diarrhea Panel (IDP) & *C. difficile* testing

Bacterial (including *C. difficile*), parasitic and viral targets.

Ova & Parasite (SAF Fixative) Container

Worms or protozoa suspected, and Molecular IDP negative

Respiratory Suction

Tracheal and other respiratory specimens using suction.

Remove tubing lid and apply white plain lid prior to transport to lab.

Urine Culture

Sterile transfer

Boric Acid Tube: Sterile transfer to line.

MIX WELL - DISSOLVE TABLET.

Mycobacterial Blood Culture

Add 5 mL of blood.

Filamentous Fungi Blood Culture

Add 5 mL of blood.

Pediatric Blood Culture

Contact Microbiology Laboratory for blood cultures on infants and children <6 years.

Miscellaneous

The following kits/swabs can be obtained from SPH Laboratory:

- Pinworm Paddle
- Pertussis Transport Media
- Scabies Collection Kit
- Dimorphic Fungal Culture