

Proper Collection of Tissue, Sterile Body Fluid, and Aspirate Specimens for Microbiology Culture

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Introduction

(Why is this important?)

- Proper specimen collection is essential to ensure accurate microbiology culture results and support timely patient diagnosis and treatment.

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Situation

(What is the current situation?)

- The Clinical Microbiology Laboratory has recently received tissue, sterile body fluid, and aspirate specimens submitted in **ESwab® collection tubes**, which are not intended for these specimen types.

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Background

(What is important to know about the background?)

- Improper specimen collection may lead to delays in diagnosis and patient management. When feasible, improperly collected specimens may require recollection. For specimens that cannot be recollected, such as those obtained during invasive procedures, the laboratory must evaluate the specimen on a case-by-case basis, recognizing that suboptimal collection may **limit diagnostic accuracy**.

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Assessment

*(What is the evaluation?)
(Could include costs, risks, etc.)*

- To optimize culture recovery and ensure the highest quality patient care, tissue, bone, sterile body fluid, and aspirate specimens should be collected in the recommended sterile collection containers. ESwab® collection devices should be reserved for specimen types for which they are intended.

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Recommendation

(What actions need to take place?)

- **Tissue, bone, sterile body fluids, and aspirates** submitted for microbiology culture should be collected in a **sterile, leak-proof container without transport medium**.
- **ESwab® collection devices** should be used **only for superficial wound or mucosal specimens**, utilizing the swab provided in the collection kit.

