



# CONWAY MEDICAL CENTER

## PROCEDURE

When in hard copy form, refer to Policy Manager to validate this as the most current revision.

TITLE:	LAB-SPC-05.09 AFB Sample Collection and Processing -PRO		
ISSUED BY:	Sr Tech, Microbiology	REFERENCE #:	LAB-SPC-05.09-PRO
APPROVED BY:	Lab Director	EFFECTIVE DATE:	2000-11-22

**SCOPE:** All potential collectors of AFB samples for submission to CMC laboratory.

### PROCEDURE:

#### I. Collection of Specimens:

- A. Use a sterile, leak- proof, disposable plastic container. Do not use waxed containers.
- B. Label the container with the patient’s name, account number, source of specimen, date, and time collected.
- C. Collect initial specimens before antimicrobial therapy is started.
- D. Collect specimens aseptically, minimizing contamination with indigenous microbiota.
- E. Collect sufficient material for the tests requested.

Type of Specimen	Collection Time	Amount	Number of Specimens	Type of Container	Special Procedure
Sputum	At least One early AM	5-10 ml	Series of 3,8-24hr intervals	Sterile cup	Sputum – Deep cough from lungs – not saliva
Urine	Early AM	Entire Specimen Centrifuge 10 ml	Series of 3 One/Day	Sterile Urine Cup	Voided midstream specimen collected as aseptically as possible. Transport to lab immediately.
Gastric Washing	Early AM	10 ml	1 or more as needed	Same	NPO - Pass 20-50 ml sterile distilled water through stomach tube & draw off specimen in sterile tube.
Biopsy				Same	No fixative or preservative (saline only)
Feces		Formed- walnut size ---Liquid- 10ml	1 or more	Same	No fixative or preservative (saline only)



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Sterile Body Fluids other than blood (csf, joint pleural, etc.)		10 ml when possible.	1 or more as needed.	Same	No fixative or preservative (saline only)
Swabs of drainage or other material					Use small amounts of sterile saline to keep swab moist. Do not use transport media or L.J. swabs in transport medium. These are not usually productive specimens for Mycobacteria.
Blood		Maximum of 5 ml			Collect 1-5 ml blood in a BD BACTEC MYCO/F - Lytic Bottle.* <b>Send to DHEC for Culture.</b>

\* Available from the Microbiology Department.

### II. Transport Of Specimens:

- A. Transport specimens to the laboratory in as short a time as is practical to avoid overgrowth by contaminating indigenous microbiota.
- B. Refrigerate specimens whenever possible if transport to the laboratory will be more than one hour. **Do not refrigerate blood for mycobacterial culture.**

### III. Unacceptable Specimens:

- A. Swabs are not recommended for the isolation of Mycobacteria since they provide limited material. They are acceptable only if a specimen cannot be collected by any other means.
- B. 24-hour collections are likely to be diluted and contaminated.
- C. Specimens received in fixatives or preservatives.
- D. Blood collected in an EDTA tube.
- E. Frozen specimens.

### IV. Procedure for Rejection of Specimens:

- A. Notify the patient's nurse or physician as soon as possible that the specimen is unacceptable, and explain the reason. Also, explain what specimen(s) would be acceptable for the given clinical situation. Ask the nurse to place a new order in the computer when an acceptable specimen can be obtained.



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- B. Follow the phoned notification with a cancellation notice stating that the specimen was not processed and giving the reason the specimen was unacceptable (note name, date, and time information was given).
- C. Rejected samples are held for a minimum of 3 days at 2 to 8° C.
- D. If the physician requests that specimen be processed, document this information in the computer and proceed with the culture.

### References:

1. SCDHEC Bureau of Laboratories Service Guide, Tenth Edition, 2006. (Revised June 28, 2016)
2. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Editor in Chief, Amy L. Leber, Volume 2, Section 7. 2016
3. Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health Care Settings, MMWR, CDC 2005

### RECORDS: NA

### REFERENCE STANDARDS:

**CAP GEN.40000; GEN40016; GEN.40032; GEN.40050; GEN.40100**

### REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Affected Section(s)	Summary of Changes ('Reviewed' or details of change)
05/17/2011 mp	None	Reviewed/Revised Electronically saved in the lab G drive.
11/03/2011 lds	Format	Changed into MCN Policy Manager format.
04/01/2013mp	Newest format	Revised container for sputum— updated references.
03/12/15mp	All	Reviewed.Under Collection of Specimens – deleted comment about "Specimens requiring centrifugation"
03/17/17mp	All	Reviewed. No content changes.. Checked/Updated references