Specimen Collection
Specimen Collection Devices

**BD ProbeTec**
For GC PCR and Chlamydia PCR testing. Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

**GC Culture Swabs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Male urethral swab (or collect first voided urine in sterile cup)
- Female cervical swabs (white swab is for cleaning, pink swab is for collection.)

Use culture only for assault cases and patients 12 or under, as test of cure and non-genital sites.

**ThroatStrepDNA or AerobicCulture**
Wounds, abscesses, ulcers, vaginal screen, yeast screen, MRSA screen, etc. Tissues or aspirates are preferred.

**NOT** anaerobic.

**NOT** GC or Chlamydia.

Collect with aerobic swab or ESwab

**BD Universal Viral Transport**

- **Flocked Flexible Minitip:**
  For collection of respiratory viruses (influenza, RSV, adenovirus, etc)

- **Standard Swab:**
  For Transport of specimens for viral testing such as Herpes simplex, Varicella zoster, CMV, etc. Also for Chlamydia culture.

Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

**BD Flocked ESwab**
For nasopharyngeal collection of Bordetella pertussis and Legionella.

Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

**BD Vacutainer**
Contains preservative for routine urine culture.

**Sterile Cup**
For urine collection, sputum collection and other aerobic culture specimens

**Anaerobic Transport Media**

- **Small Pieces:** Insert swab or tissue into gel, or inject with fluid. Synthetic swabs must be used.

- **Larger Pieces:** Insert tissue into gel.

NOT an aerobic.
**Specimen Collection Devices**

**Thin Prep**
GYN specimens for PAP, HPV, GC PCR and Chlamydia PCR.

**Formalin**
Tissue biopsies: for tissue culture, use sterile cup and anaerobic transport media.

**Total-Fix**
For preservation and transport of stool specimens for Ova and Parasite testing including Routine O&P, Giardia and Cryptosporidium antigen and stains for Microsporidium, Cyclospora and Isospora.

**Para-Pak C&S**
For preservation and transport of stool specimens for culture.

**Swube Paddle**
For collection and detection of pinworms.

**Stool Collection Container**
Fits into toilet for easy fresh stool specimen collection for C. difficile, H. pylori and rotavirus. *Please always send extra stool when available*

**V-C-M**
For collection of Mycoplasma, Ureaplasma and viruses.

Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

**BD Affirm**
For collection of vaginal panel (*Candida, Trichomonas, bacterial vaginosis*)

Squeeze dropper vial to break, drip fluid into collection vial. Insert swab into container, break at score line and recap.
### Contact the York Hospital Microbiology laboratory at (717)-851-2583

**General Guidelines for Outpatient Facilities**

- Specimens should be collected in appropriate transport systems and transported as quickly as possible. Please refer to the chart for suggested protocol when specimen is collected after the daily courier pick-up.
- Specimens should NOT be held over weekends. Please transport to the laboratory or outpatient collection center.
- Please request BD Universal Viral Transport containers if anticipating ordering viral or Chlamydia cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Collection Device</th>
<th>Maximum Duration for Storage</th>
<th>Optimum Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abscess / Wound</td>
<td>Aerobic Culture; Anaerobic Transport Media</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia or GC PCR</td>
<td>BD ProbeTec or Thin Prep or Sterile Cup (1st stream urine)</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temp. (Probe Tec, Thin Prep) Refrigerate (Urine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluids (non-urine)</td>
<td>Sterile cup or syringe, and anaerobic media</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycoplasma or Ureaplasma</td>
<td>V-C-M</td>
<td>Bring to lab ASAP</td>
<td>Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAP</td>
<td>Thin Prep</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputum (routine or fungus)</td>
<td>Sterile Cup</td>
<td>up to 6 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputum TB</td>
<td>Sterile Cup</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - routine culture</td>
<td>Para-Pak C&amp;S (salmon/orange cap)</td>
<td>72hrs, must be in preservative</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - Parasites</td>
<td>Total Fix preservative</td>
<td>72hrs, in preservative to provide best clinical relevance</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - C. difficile toxin</td>
<td>Stool collection container</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue biopsy (pathology)</td>
<td>Formalin container</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue for culture</td>
<td>Sterile Cup; Anaerobic Transport Media</td>
<td>Bring to lab ASAP</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throat - Beta Strep</td>
<td>Aerobic Culture Swab</td>
<td>48 hrs</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomonas RNA</td>
<td>APTIMA collective devices for swabs or urine</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine - gray top</td>
<td>BD Vacutainer</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Room temp. or Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine - cup</td>
<td>Sterile Cup</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaginal Screen</td>
<td>BD Affirm</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral Specimen</td>
<td>BD Universal Viral Transport</td>
<td>overnight</td>
<td>Refrigerate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Formed stool for C. difficile is unacceptable
2. Watery stool for H. Pylori is unacceptable