Quest Diagnostics®

Collect the right specimen, for the right test. **Every time.**

Infectious Disease & Primary Care
Specimen Collection & Transport Guide

How to use this guide

1. Identify the desired test in the Test column.
2. Refer to the Preferred Transport Device column for the preferred specimen collection device indicated by a colored circle. This circle corresponds to an image inside the guide.
3. Find the indicated transport device inside the guide for specific collection instructions and how to order.

Key

- Swab
- Swab Female
- Blood
- Urine
- Stool/Anal
- Miscellaneous
- Urea Breath Specimen
- Unisex
- *m* Male
- *f* Female

For example: For *Candida* vaginitis, first find the test in the left column. The specimen collection device listed is "7 Female" in a light orange–colored circle in the Preferred Transport Device column. 7 *f*
Inside the guide, you will find 7 in the light orange section for specific collection and ordering instructions. 7

Culture methods

Select an appropriate transport container for the specimen type from the listed options

TEST	PREFERRED TRANSPORT DEVICE
Aerobic and Anaerobic	1 4 25
Aerobic and Anaerobic with Gram Stain	1 4 25
Aerobic Cultures	1 2 3 4
Anaerobic with Gram Stain	25
Blood, Fungus	17
Blood, Mycobacterium	17
Blood, Routine Bacterial	15
Chlamydia	9 *f/m*
Ear	1 4
Eye	1 4
Fungus: Hair, Skin, Nail	23
Fungus, Other	1 2 4 23 25
Genital	1 2 4
Herpes simplex	6 9 *f/m*
Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Screen (MRSA)	1 2 3 4
Mycobacterial, Respiratory and sources other than blood	23 24
Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma	6 9
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	1 4
Sputum, may include fungus or mycobacteria	23 24
Stool Culture for: *Salmonella* and *Shigella*; *Vibrio*; *Yersinia*	19
Streptococcus, Group A	1 2 4
Streptococcus Group A Rapid Antigen with Reflex to Culture (use double swab)	5
Streptococcus, Group B (with or without Susceptibility)	1 2 4

	TEST	PREFERRED TRANSPORT DEVICE
	Throat	1 2 4
	Tissues, Fluids, and Aspirates	25
	Urine, Routine	12
	Urine, Special	12
	Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococci* Screen (VRE)	1 2 4
	Viral	6 9
	Yeast	1 2 4 25
ANTIGEN DETECTION	*Campylobacter*	19
ANTIGEN DETECTION	*Cryptosporidium*	18 19
ANTIGEN DETECTION	Fecal Lactoferrin	21
ANTIGEN DETECTION	*Giardia* Antigen	18 19
ANTIGEN DETECTION	*H pylori* Antigen Detection	19 21
ANTIGEN DETECTION	Shiga Toxins EIA	19
ANTIGEN DETECTION	*Streptococcus*, Group A Antigen Detection	5
MICROSCOPY	Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Smear, Nugent Score	1 2 4
MICROSCOPY	Blood Parasites Malaria/ *Babesia* Smear Microfilariae Detection	16
MICROSCOPY	*Cyclospora* and *Isospora*	18
MICROSCOPY	Fecal Leukocyte	18
MICROSCOPY	Gram Stain	1 2 4 23 25
MICROSCOPY	*Microsporidia* Spore Detection	18
MICROSCOPY	Ova and Parasites	18
MICROSCOPY	Ova and Parasites with *Giardia* Antigen	18
MICROSCOPY	Pinworm identification	20
MICROSCOPY	Respiratory Virus Panel	6

	TEST	PREFERRED TRANSPORT DEVICE
MOLECULAR	Bacterial Vaginosis/Vaginitis NAAT	7
MOLECULAR	BD Affirm® Vaginitis panel	8 *f*
MOLECULAR	*Bordetella pertussis* DNA, real-time	3 4
MOLECULAR	*C difficile* testing	23
MOLECULAR	*Candida* vaginitis, TMA	7 *f*
MOLECULAR	*Chlamydia trachomatis* RNA, TMA	7 *f* 10 *f/m* 11
MOLECULAR	Flu A/B RSV	6
MOLECULAR	HSV 1/2 NAAT	7
MOLECULAR	*M pneumoniae* DNA, Qualitative, Real-Time PCR	6 23
MOLECULAR	Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*	2
MOLECULAR	*Mycoplasma genitalium* RNA, TMA	7 *f* 10 *f/m* 11
MOLECULAR	*Mycoplasma hominis*, PCR	7 10 11 *m*
MOLECULAR	*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* RNA, TMA	7 10 11
MOLECULAR	Respiratory Pathogen Panel	6
MOLECULAR	SARS-CoV-2, Flu A/B, RSV	6
MOLECULAR	*Streptococcus*, Group B DNA, PCR with Broth Enrichment	2 4
MOLECULAR	*Trichomonas vaginalis* RNA, TMA	7 10 11
MOLECULAR	*Ureaplasma/Mycoplasma* Panel, PCR	7 10 11 *m*
MOLECULAR	*Ureaplasma* spp. PCR	7 10 11 *m*
OTHER/ MISC	*H pylori* Urea Breath Test (UBT)	22
OTHER/ MISC	Urinalysis, Complete	14
OTHER/ MISC	Urinalysis with Culture Reflex	13
OTHER/ MISC	Urinalysis with Reflex to Microscopic	14

More information can be found online at **QuestDiagnostics.com/TestDirectory** or by contacting your local Quest Diagnostics laboratory.
*Preferred transport devices may vary by region. Consult the test directory or contact your local lab for more information.

CULTURE SWAB SPECIMENS

FEMALE VAGINAL & CERVICAL SPECIMENS

UNISEX SPECIMENS

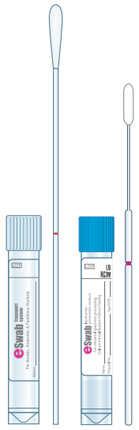
1 ESwab® Transport System

- ESwabs (Elution swab) are designed for routine bacterial cultures
- ESwabs offer the advantage of a single device for both aerobic and anaerobic cultures and feature the improved flocked nylon swab
- Mini-tip swabs may be used for smaller body sites

Instructions
- Break off nylon swab into screw cap vial
- Seal tightly
- Keep at room temperature after collection
- Specify source on requisition

Routine **speedy code: S12**

Mini-tip **speedy code: S10**

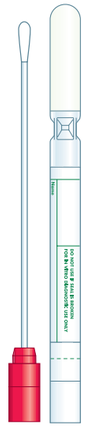


2 Swab in Amies liquid transport medium (red cap)

Instructions
- Keep at room temperature after collection
- Specify source on requisition

Notes
- Reflex to Culture (use double swab; see item #5)

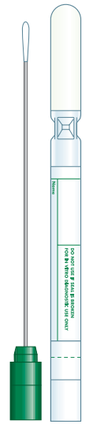
Single-swab **speedy code: S01**



3 Twisted wire shaft swab in Amies liquid transport medium (green cap)

Instructions
- Keep at room temperature after collection
- Specify source on requisition

Speedy code: S08

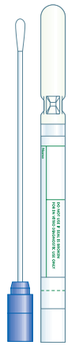


4 Swab in Amies gel transport medium (blue cap)

- Swab transport devices do not provide optimal organism recovery for surgically obtained body fluid or tissue samples
- For submission of fluid or tissue samples, refer to #25 below

Instructions
- Keep at room temperature after collection
- Specify source on requisition

Speedy code: S02

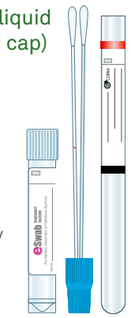


5 ESwab® double-swab kit in Amies liquid transport medium (blue cap) or double swab in Amies liquid transport medium (red cap)

Instructions
- Take sample from patient using both swabs
- Remove the white swab from the dual cap
- Keep the green swab on the dual cap and insert into the dry tube
- Break off the white swab into the Amies liquid tube and secure tightly
- Keep at room temperature after collection
- Specify source on requisition

Blue cap kit **speedy code: S55**

Red cap kit **speedy code: S07**



6 BD™ Universal Viral Transport System

- UTM-RT may be stored at room temperature before inoculation
- Store vials refrigerated after inoculation

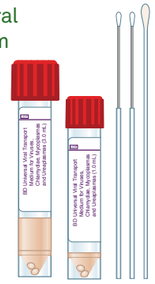
Instructions
- Break the sampling swab off into the UTM-RT tube

Nasopharyngeal kit **speedy code: S05**

Lesion (skin surface) kit **speedy code: S03**

Cervical kit **speedy code: S06**

Urethral kit **speedy code: S09**



7 Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit

Instructions

Use the Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit for the vaginosis/vaginitis panel
- Insert collection swab into diluent tube
- Break at score mark and cap tightly

Note

Refer to the Test Directory for test order numbers and additional samples/collection containers acceptable for individual test codes.

Aptima **speedy code: A03**

8 BD Affirm® VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System (ATTS) (Vaginal)

Instructions
- Break ampoule in ATTS Reagent Dropper by firmly squeezing the vial with finger and thumb
- Dispense reagent from dropper into transport device
- Swab the vaginal wall and posterior fornix and place immediately into the transport device

Vaginal **speedy code: S04**

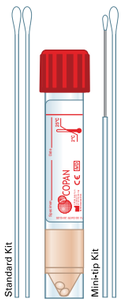
9 VCM Viral *Chlamydia-Mycoplasma* transport tube (red cap)

- VCM may be stored at room temperature before inoculation
- Store vials refrigerated after inoculation

Instructions
- Break the sampling swab off into the VCM tube

Female genital kit **speedy code: S06**

Male urethral (mini-tip) kit **speedy code: S09**



10 Aptima® Unisex Collection Swab

Instructions
- Insert the collection swab into the diluent tube, so that the tip of the swab is visible below the tube label
- Break the swab at score mark and cap tightly

Male urethral or female endocervical swab **speedy code: A02**

URINE SPECIMENS

11 Aptima® Urine Specimen Collection Kit

- Patient should collect first 20 mL-30 mL of voided urine
- Patient should not have urinated at least 1 hour prior to collection

Instructions

- Uncap the urine transport tube
- Use the transfer pipette to dispense 2 mL of urine into the tube
- Fluid levels should be between the black lines on the tube label

Urine **speedy code: A01**

12 Vacutainer® Urine or Copan UriSponge™ Transport Tube

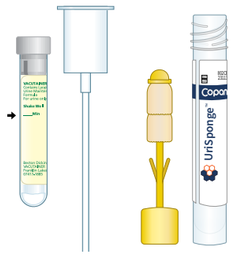
- This container will keep bacterial colony counts constant during transport to the lab
- For urine culture only

Instructions for Vacutainer®

- Fill the gray-top tube to minimum fill line (at least 3 mL)
- Keep at room temperature after collection

Instructions for UriSponge™

- Dip the UriSponge™ applicator into the urine sample, submerging sponge applicator for 5 seconds
- Return the sponge applicator to the UriSponge tube
- DO NOT add urine directly to the tube
- Transport at room temperature or refrigerated



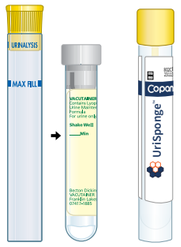
Vacutainer **speedy code: U01** UriSponge **speedy code: U90**

13 Yellow-Cap Urine Transport Tube plus Gray-Top Urine Transport Tube or Copan UriSponge™ Transport Tube

- This test requires the submission of both a yellow-cap urinalysis preservative tube with blue fill line and a gray-top culture tube or Copan UriSponge™
- Both tubes are required

Instructions (Yellow-cap plus gray-top tubes)

- Fill the gray-top culture tube to minimum fill line (at least 3 mL)
- Fill the urinalysis tube to the maximum fill line
- Store and transport the tube at room temperature after collection
- For Copan UriSponge instructions, see #12



Yellow-Cap **speedy code: U03 or U73** Gray-Top **speedy code: U01**

14 Urine Transport Tube

- This test requires the submission of a yellow-cap urinalysis preservative tube with blue fill line

Instructions

- Fill the urinalysis tube to the maximum fill line
- Store and transport the yellow-cap tube at room temperature after collection

Speedy code: U03 or U73

BLOOD SPECIMENS

15 BACT/ALERT® FA PLUS, BACT/ALERT® FN PLUS, and BACT/ALERT® PF PLUS blood culture bottle kits

• Aerobic (Green) • Anaerobic (Orange) • Pediatric (Yellow)

Instructions

Adults:

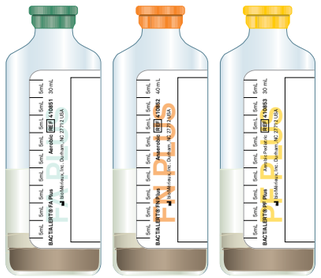
For each culture ordered:

- Collect blood with a blood collection set into a Bact/Alert® FA Plus bottle first, followed by a Bact/Alert® FN Plus
- Leave at room temperature after collection

Children:

For each culture request:

- Collect blood with a blood collection set into a Bact/Alert® PF Plus bottle
- Only one bottle is needed (see Specimen Collection section of Directory of Services)
- Leave at room temperature after collection



Aerobic & Anaerobic set **speedy code: BC31** Pediatric kit **speedy code: BC32**

16 EDTA (lavender-top) tube and slides in slide holders

- Send specimens to the lab within 24 hours

Instructions

- Submit air-dried blood smears (one "Thick" and one "Thin") on 2 separate glass slides in 2 separate slide holders in addition to the test tube
- See the Test Directory for details

Speedy code: T59

Slide only **speedy code: ST26**

Slide holder **speedy code: SP41**

17 BD Bactec™ Myco/F Lytic bottle

- Submit blood for mycobacterial or fungal cultures in a Bactec™ Myco/F Lytic bottle
- SPS and heparin tubes are no longer recommended

Instructions

- Collect blood
- Gently mix the bottle by inverting after collection
- Leave at room temperature until transported

Myco/F Lytic bottle **speedy code: BC04**

STOOL/ANAL SPECIMENS

18 Total-Fix™ vial

Instructions

- Place stool into vial until the black line is reached
- Leave specimen at room temperature after collection

Speedy code: F01

19 Cary-Blair Transport Medium

Instructions

- Place stool into orange-capped Para-Pak® vial until red fill line is reached
- Leave specimen at room temperature after collection

Speedy code: F02

20 Apacor ParaClick® pinworm paddle

Instructions

- Remove protective film from adhesive area on collection paddle
- Press the sticky side of the paddle to the perianal folds
- Do not insert paddle into the anus or cover with stool
- Fold the test to seal and protect the sample. The test will click shut
- Place specimen in collection bag and refrigerate

Speedy code: F08

21 Non-Sterile Stool Vial

- For best results on *H pylori* Antigen Detection, the patient should be off antimicrobials, proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), or bismuth preparations within 2 weeks prior to administering the test

Instructions

- Place stool into red-cap vial
- Frozen transport

Speedy code: F57

UREA BREATH SPECIMEN

22 UBT Test Collection Kit

- The patient should fast 1 hour before collection of baseline breath sample
- Antimicrobials, PPIs, or bismuth preparations taken within 2 weeks prior to administering test may cause false-negative results. A positive result for a patient on a PPI could be considered positive and acted upon
- Pranactin-Citric™ contains a small amount of aspartame sweetener
- Test may not be suitable for patients with phenylketonuria whose dietary phenylalanine is restricted

Instructions

- Collect the baseline breath sample using the blue bag
- Collect the post-dose breath sample using the pink bag 15 minutes after drinking the Pranactin-Citric solution
- Transport at room temperature

Speedy code: K01

MISCELLANEOUS

23 Leakproof Plastic Screw Cap Vial

Instructions

- For *C difficile* tests, place 5-10 grams of unformed stool specimen in the container and transport frozen or refrigerated

Frozen transport preferred, refrigerated acceptable:
C difficile GDH/Toxin A and B with refl to PCR;
C difficile Toxin B Screen; *C difficile* Culture

Refrigerated transport:
Sputum/Lower Respiratory Culture; Fungal or Mycobacterial Cultures on Urine; bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* DNA PCR

Room temperature transport:
Hair, Nails, Skin for Fungus Culture; Preserved Insect or Tick; Preserved Worm

Speedy code: U02

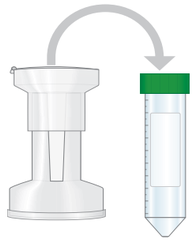
24 50 mL Conical, Sterile, Leakproof Plastic Screw Cap Vial

Instructions

Please instruct the patient to perform the following:

- Rinse mouth with water prior to collection
- Open the lid on top of the device
- Cough deeply and expectorate sputum directly into the device, avoiding excess saliva
- Then open the plastic base of the device
- Remove the conical tube
- Screw on the provided green cap tightly

Wearing gloves, label the tube with patient information and date/time of collection. Double bag, refrigerate until transport. Submit only the green-cap, 50-mL tube to the lab on cold packs.



Speedy code: OF02

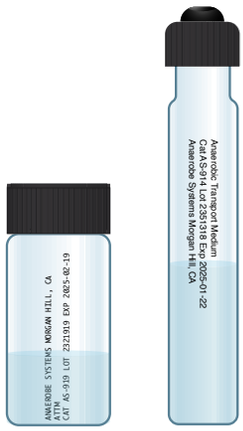
25 Anaerobic Transport Medium and Anaerobic Tissue Transport Medium

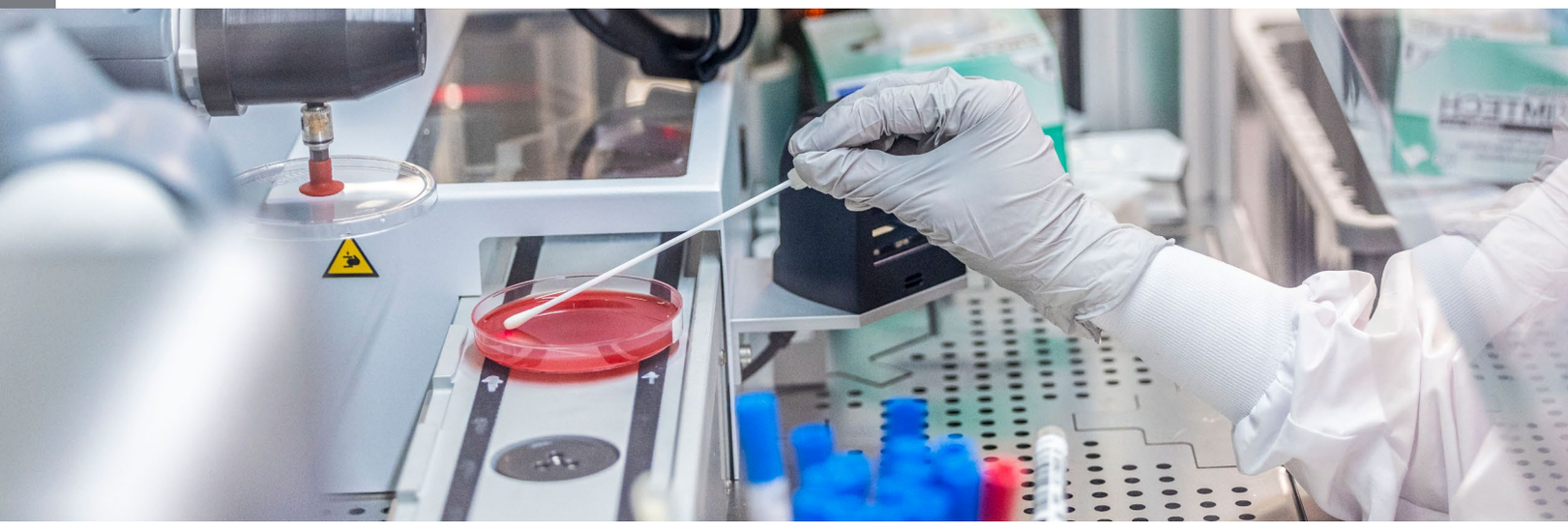
Instructions

- For tissue samples, open the screw cap and place tissue on the surface of the semisolid medium; inserting the tissue into the gel is not necessary. Immediately close the tube
- For syringe specimens, the rubber septum in the cap should be disinfected with ethyl alcohol and the fluid specimen injected directly into the tube at a slow rate
- Transport at room temperature

Anaerobic fluid transport medium **speedy code: M12**

Anaerobic tissue transport medium **speedy code: M03**





For more information about infectious disease and immunology testing at Quest Diagnostics, visit **QuestDiagnostics.com**

For more information about all Quest Diagnostics testing, visit: **QuestDiagnostics.com/TestDirectory**

Supplies ordered through Quest Diagnostics should only be used for collection for Quest Diagnostics testing.

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