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Microbiology Reference Chart

The exact nature and source of the specimen, including the specific anatomic culture site must be specified on the requisition.

Test Order Code/ Test Name	Also Known As...	Appropriate Collection Site (See ACL Laboratories Directory of Services)	Collection Device
AANCLS Anaerobe and Aerobe Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Wound Culture (Deep), Fluid Culture, Aspirate Culture, Tissue Culture	Aspirates, body fluids, tissue or material collected from areas without normal flora are preferred.	Body fluid/tissue submitted in a sterile container or bacterial transport medium. Ambient temperature
JNTCLS Joint Native (4-day Hold), Anaerobe and Aerobe Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Joint Culture, Tissue Culture, Synovial Fluid Culture, Orthopedic Culture	Synovial fluid, bursal fluid or tissues collected from native joints	Synovial fluid, bursal fluid or tissues in sterile container. Other anaerobic transport media. Eswab acceptable but not preferred. Ambient temperature
POJCLS Prosthetic Joint (14 day hold) Anaerobe, Aerobe, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Propionibacterium acnes Culture, Cutibacterium acnes Culture	Synovial fluid, bursal fluid or tissues collected from surgical prosthesis joints	Fluid/tissues in sterile container; Other anaerobic transport media. Eswab acceptable but not preferred. Ambient temperature
INVCLS Invasive Eye, Anaerobe/ Aerobe including Cornea, Vitreous, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Vitreous, Aqueous fluid, Scleral Buckle, Cornea Culture	Cornea, cornea scrapings/rim, Eye fluid (Vitreous/Aqueous, Anterior chamber), scleral buckle, amniotic membrane transport fluid	Fluid and/or tissue in sterile container, ESwab, sterile anaerobic vial or sterile anaerobic swab, or cornea in transport media Ambient temperature
EYECLS Non-Invasive Eye, Aerobic Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Eye Culture	Eye (Other than vitreous fluid)	Eswab, aerobic culture swab in transport media Ambient temperature
EARCLS Ear Non-Invasive, Aerobic, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Ear Culture	Ear (Superficial site)	Eswab, aerobic culture swab in transport media, ambient
SINCLS Sinus & Nasopharynx, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain, Aerobic	Sinus Culture, Nasopharyngeal Culture	Sinus or nasopharynx	Nasopharyngeal or sinus sample in green cap (mini-tip) ESwab Also acceptable: aerobic culture swab in transport media Ambient temperature
AERCLS Aerobic Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Wound Culture (Superficial)	Superficial wound, skin specimens (specify anatomical site)	ESwab Also acceptable: Aerobic culture swab in transport media, Ambient temperature
CATHCL Catheter Tip, Aerobe, Bacterial Culture	Catheter Tip Culture	Catheter tip	Catheter tip in sterile container, ambient (do not submit associated tubing)
ACTCL Actinomyces, Bacterial Culture		Specimen from any body site (except sputum, blood, hair, skin scraping or nails) Preferred specimens are abscesses, biopsies, fine needle aspirates, intrauterine device (IUD), and sterile body fluids or tissues	Sterile container ESwab or swab submitted in anaerobic transport media are not preferred, but acceptable Ambient preferred, Refrigerated also acceptable
GASCL Strep Group A Bacterial Culture	Strep throat culture	Throat, back of the throat, tonsils, tonsillar crypt, rectal, perianal, vaginal, and vaginal/rectal	ESwab collection kit, aerobic culture swab in transport media Ambient temperature

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THTCL Throat, Bacterial Culture	Complete throat culture	Throat	Aerobic swab in transport media, ESwab Ambient temperature
SPTCLS Sputum Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Sputum Culture, Tracheal Secretions Culture	Sputum, tracheal secretions Specimens (Sputum and tracheal) will be rejected if excessive oral contamination is present	Sputum or tracheal secretions in a sterile leak-proof container, refrigerated. ESwab acceptable for tracheal secretions only, at ambient temperature.
BROCLS Bronchial, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Bronchial Culture	Bronchial lavage (min 5.0 to 10.0 mL), bronchial washings, bronchial brushings	Bronchial lavage/washings in a sterile leak proof container Bronchial brushes should be placed in a sterile screw cap tube with 1 mL of nonbacteriostatic 0.85% sodium chloride Refrigerated
BCQCLS Bronchial Quantitative, Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Quantitative Bronchial Culture	Any lower respiratory specimen may be submitted	Sterile leak proof container Refrigerated
SAMRCL MSSA/MRSA Culture	Methicillin sensitive and resistant Staphylococcus aureus Culture/ Pre-surgical MRSA/MSSA culture screen	Nares, Skin or Skin Structures, Rectal	Swab in transport media, ESwab at ambient temperature
MRSACL Staphylococcus aureus Methicillin Resistant (MRSA) Screen, Bacterial Culture	MRSA Culture	Nares, Skin or Skin Structures, Urine, Fluid	ESwab from anterior nares, skin, ambient Urine in sterile leak-proof container or boric acid preservative, refrigerated. Fluid in sterile leak-proof container, refrigerated
GBSCL Strep. Group B Culture	Strep Screen Vaginal/Rectal Group B only, GBS	Vaginal and/or rectal swab. Collecting both a vaginal and rectal swab (or a combined anogenital swab) results in increased detection of Group B Strep colonization <i>A question will be asked during the ordering process whether or not the patient is at high risk for anaphylaxis following penicillin exposure. If the question is answered "Yes", susceptibility testing will be performed if Group B Streptococcus is isolated. If the question is answered "No" or "Unknown", susceptibility testing will not automatically be performed if Group B Streptococcus is isolated.</i>	ESwab collection kit, ambient (Also acceptable: Aerobic culture swab in transport media), ambient
GBPCRS Streptococcus Group B PCR with Susceptibility Reflex if Penicillin Allergic	Group B Strep by PCR	Vaginal and/or rectal swab. Collecting both a vaginal and rectal swab (or a combined anogenital swab) results in increased detection of Group B Strep colonization <i>A question will be asked during the ordering process whether or not the patient is at high risk for anaphylaxis following penicillin exposure. If the question is answered "Yes", susceptibility testing will be performed if Group B Streptococcus is isolated. If the question is answered "No" or "Unknown", susceptibility testing will not automatically be performed if Group B Streptococcus is isolated.</i>	ESwab collection kit, ambient
GENCLS Genital Bacterial Culture with Gram Stain	Vaginal/Endocervical Culture, Reproductive Culture, Urethral/Penile Culture	Vaginal/Endocervical swab, urethral or penile swab, semen in a sterile cup	ESwab, aerobic swab in transport media, ambient

Test Order Code/ Test Name	Also Known As...	Appropriate Collection Site (DOS)	Collection Device
OVAP Ova and Parasite with Microscopic Exam	O and P, Ova and Parasite with Foreign Travel History	Stool (Do not submit diaper or swab). Respiratory sources, Body fluids (Duodenal aspirates, urine, CSF), liver abscesses/aspirates, hydatid cyst fluid. Three specimens collected over a 10 day period are optimum for organism recovery.	Stool preserved in SAF Para-Pak or in both 10% formalin+ PVA, both ambient Also acceptable: Stool preserved in ECOFIX
STOCL Stool, Bacterial Culture	Stool Culture Enteric Pathogen Culture Campylobacter Shiga Toxin	Stool (Do not submit diaper or swab)	Stool in Cary – Blair transport media
URC Urine Culture	Urine Culture	Midstream clean catch (First morning specimen preferred), straight catheter, catheterized bladder, suprapubic aspirates (collected by syringe only)	4.0 mL gray top preservative tube (MUST be filled to the mark on side of the tube) ambient or Sterile container ONLY if low volume (at least 0.5 mL), refrigerated
FUNCLS Fungal Culture and Smear	Yeast Culture, Mold Culture, Fungus Culture, Aerobic Actinomycetes Culture (Nocardia/Streptomyces), Histoplasma, Coccidioides, or Blastomyces Culture, Malassezia Culture	Specimen other than hair, skin scrapings, nail, and blood (Indicate if Blastomyces, Coccidioides, or Histoplasma is suspected.) Source of specimen is required with order Indicate if Blastomyces, Coccidioides, Histoplasma, Nocardia, Actinomycetes, or Malassezia species is suspected	Sterile specimen container. ESwab is acceptable, but not preferred. Transport CSF, tissue and ESwab, ambient. All other specimens: refrigerate
FUNHSN Fungal Culture, Hair, Skin, Nail	Dermatophytes Culture, Ringworm Culture, Hair, Skin, and Nail Fungal Culture	Hair, skin scrapings, nails ONLY	Clean dry container at ambient temperature for hair, skin scrapings or nails. Skin scrapings from pediatric patients (i.e., less than 2 years of age) collected with ESwab are acceptable.
YSTCL Yeast Culture	Yeast Culture Candida Culture, Oral Yeast Culture, Vaginal Yeast Culture, Urine Yeast Culture	Mouth, throat, urine or vaginal swab	Swab submitted in ESwab (also acceptable: aerobic culture swab), ambient Urine in a gray top boric acid preservative tube. Must be filled to the mark on the side of the gray top tube ambient
BLC Blood or Bone Marrow, Bacterial Culture	Blood Culture Bone Marrow Culture	Blood Bone Marrow	Blood Culture: BacT/ALERT blood culture bottles – 10 mL blood per bottle. Specimens from pediatric patients (less than 12 years of age) are inoculated into a BacT/ALERT PF PLUS bottle. Optimal volume for pediatric bottles is 4mL. Bone marrow: One yellow (SPS) 7.0 mL. Optimal bone marrow volume: > 0.5 mL, no minimum draw.
FUNBLC Fungal Culture, Blood or Bone Marrow	Fungus blood culture, Fungus bone marrow culture	Blood, Bone marrow Note: if both AFBBLC & FUNBLC are ordered together on a bone marrow, this can be a shared specimen of 0.5 mL)	Blood in yellow (SPS) 7.0 mL tube. Optimal blood volume: > 1 mL. Bone Marrow in yellow (SPS) 7.0 mL, Optimal bone marrow volume: > 0.5 mL

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AFBCLS Mycobacterial Culture and Acid Fast Smear	AFB Culture and Smear, TB Culture and Smear, Atypical Mycobacterial Culture and Smear	Sputum (>5 mL) Bronchial wash/lavage/aspirate (>5 mL), Bronchial brush in sterile container, Body fluid (pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, etc >5 mL) Tissue, Gastric fluid, CSF (2 mL) Skin biopsy in sterile container, Fine needle aspirate, Bone Surgical hardware, Abscess contents/aspirated fluid, Lymph node Also acceptable: Stool (for <i>Mycobacterium avium complex</i> only)	Sterile leakproof container, refrigerated ESwabs are not preferred, but are acceptable if an adequate sample cannot be obtained by any other method
AFBURC Mycobacterial Culture, Urine	Urine AFB Culture	Urine, entire first morning voided specimen	Sterile leakproof container, refrigerated
AFBBLC Mycobacterial Culture, Blood or Bone Marrow	AFB blood culture, TB blood culture, Blood culture Mycobacteria, AFB bone marrow culture	Blood, Bone marrow	Blood in yellow (SPS) 7.0 mL. Optimal blood volume: > 1 mL. Bone Marrow in yellow (SPS) 7.0 mL. Optimal bone marrow volume: > 0.5 mL
VRECL Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) Screen, Bacterial Culture	Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus Culture, VRE Culture	Rectal or fluid from any body site, Urine	ESwab, ambient Fluids in a sterile leak-proof container, refrigerated Urine in boric acid preservative tube, ambient Urine in a sterile leak-proof container, refrigerated Stool in Cary-Blair, ambient
FLQCL Fluoroquinolone Resistant Enterobacteriaceae, Bacterial Culture	Fluoroquinolone Resistant Culture	Rectal swab	ESwab, ambient
Sensitivity		Not an orderable test. When pathogens are identified, appropriate sensitivities are performed at an additional charge, according to laboratory guidelines	

The following specimens are not acceptable for anaerobic cultures:

Unacceptable Conditions:

Specimens delayed in transport to lab, refrigerated or frozen sample.

Specimens in non-anaerobic container

Fluid in EDTA.

Specimens from sites with normal anaerobic flora or where anaerobic infection is rare, such as:

- Breast milk
- Catheter tips
- Cervical/Endocervical swabs not collected in surgery
- Colostomy
- Conjunctiva or eyelid margin swabs
- Decubitus except deep surgical collections
- Ear swabs of inner or outer canals
- Gingival swabs
- Ileostomy
- Kidney Stones
- Nasopharyngeal/Nares/Nasal swabs
- Oropharyngeal/tonsil swabs
- Perineum/anal/perianal
- Prostatic/seminal fluids
- Rash, skin
- Rectum/Rectal/Anal swabs
- Respiratory specimens (excluding bronchial brushes, tissues, and fine needle aspirates)
Note: Bronchoscopic specimens not collected with a protected brush are unacceptable
- Skin, superficial material
- Sputum (expectorated or suctioned). Tracheal/Endotrach aspirates
- Stool and large bowel contents (except for Clostridium botulinum)
- Throat/Tonsil (not surgically obtained) swabs
- Tracheal/endotracheal aspirates or swabs
- Urethral/Penile swabs
- Urine (voided or catheterized)
- Vaginal, labial, vulva swabs