

# Wound Specimen Collection Instructions

## MATERIALS PROVIDED:

- Collection Swab Kit
- Biohazard Specimen Bag with Absorbent Pad
- FedEx/UPS Shipping Bag

## ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN COLLECTION CONTAINERS:

- ESwab or Other Swab with Liquid Amies Media

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

To ensure safety and validity of the sample, it is important to follow the instructions provided below. Deviations from these procedures may result in rejection of sample or delay in testing.

1. Put on gloves.
2. Prepare the collection site by debriding and/or rinsing with non-bacteriostatic saline as needed.
3. Open the peel pouch.
4. Remove the tube and label with patient's name, DOB, date/time of specimen collection, and collector's initials.
5. Remove the swab – to prevent contamination, avoid touching the shaft above the molded breakpoint toward the swab end.
6. Collect the patient sample with the swab.
  - A. **Decubitus ulcer:** roll the sterile swab directly across the affected area until saturated. **Proceed to Step 7.**
  - B. **Abscess with skin intact:**
    - a. Use sterile needle/syringe to aspirate purulent material.
    - b. Eject approximately 0.25 mL directly into specimen collection tube. **Proceed to Step 7.**

\*Alternatively, eject aspirated material into a sterile cup (not provided). Then swirl swab thoroughly in aspirated material. **Proceed to Step 7.**

### C. Abscess with open skin:

- a. Wipe skin around opening with 70% ethanol or equivalent.
- b. Roll sterile swab with purulent material within abscess and ensure it is saturated.

### **Proceed to Step 7.**

7. Remove the cap from the tube and insert the swab all the way to the bottom.
8. Holding the swab close to the rim of the tube, break the shaft at the breakpoint line while keeping the tube away from your face.
9. Screw on the cap tightly to prevent leaking.
10. Dispose of the remainder of the shaft.
11. Place swab in a biohazard specimen bag and place any paperwork in the side pouch.

## REJECTION CRITERIA:

Samples with any of the following will be rejected:

- Collection containers other than specified
- Missing required patient identifiers
- Improperly filled tubes
- Leaking or broken tubes
- Specimens exceeding stability timeline (refer to Quick Reference Guide)

## SHIPPING PROCEDURE:

1. Place specimen bag(s) in FedEx/UPS shipping bag.
2. Make sure to check the box for Exempt Human Specimen.
3. Place shipping label on shipping bag.
4. Ship to the lab promptly.

If you anticipate any shipping delays, please contact Client Services and review our Quick Reference Guide.