

# MICROBIOLOGY

## CRITICAL EYE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Guidelines for Physicians

### Acceptable sources

- Vitreous/aqueous, anterior chamber, orbital or washing fluid, corneal ulcer/scrapings, biopsy tissue, lacrimal gland/canal
- Eucleation, intraocular and other non-routine specimens
- Contact lens or contact lens solution, diagnosis of keratitis, endophthalmitis

### Before collecting the specimen

- Determine required testing and obtain the appropriate Microbiology transport media, collection kit and/or culture media (see below)
- Complete the CLS Microbiology requisition for Bacterial, Fungal, Acanthamoeba culture, and/or Herpes Simplex Virus DFA testing
- **NOTE for cytology testing:** contact the CLS Cytology Division @ 403-770-3272 (Mon–Fri:0700-1700h), the AP/Cytology Resident on Call after hours, or refer to the CLS Guide to Services [www.calgarylabservices.com](http://www.calgarylabservices.com)
- **NOTE for AFB, Viral or Chlamydia cultures:** contact the Provincial Laboratory @ 403-944-1200, or refer to the Provincial Laboratory Guide to Services <http://www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf>
- Microbiology culture media kits and slides are available from the CLS Microbiology Division @ 403-770-3278
- Check the expiry dates of all media/kits before use

### Specimen Collection

- Collect specimen aseptically and submit in a sterile container; fluid aspirates for bacterial culture may be injected aseptically through the stopper into anaerobic transport media (PRAS).
- **DO NOT submit the specimen in a syringe unless the needle has been removed.** A sterile container is preferred.
- Include the date (yyyy/mm/dd) and time of collection on the requisition

<p><b>Acanthamoeba:</b> – <b>NOTE:</b> specimen of choice is corneal scraping or contact lens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit specimen in Page’s Amoeba saline</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Herpes Simplex Virus:</b> use only dual well kits provided.</p>
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<p>Refer to CLS Form #MI6015: Herpes DFA Slide Specimen Collection</p>
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### Specimen, Media and Slide Labels

Label all specimen containers/media with the patient’s first and last name, second identifier (i.e. Personal Health Number (PHN), Medical Record Number (MRN) or Date of Birth), and source. Ensure the slide is labeled with the patient’s first and last name at a minimum.

### Media and slides required if inoculating specimen at the bedside

Alternately to sending the specimen to the laboratory for inoculation, the specimen may be inoculated to the following slides and/or media according to testing required within one hour of collection and submitted to the laboratory:

#### Bacterial Culture

(includes anaerobic culture)

- Blood agar
- Chocolate agar
- Thioglycollate broth
- Slide for gram stain

#### Fungal Culture

- Inhibitory Mold Agar (IMA)
- Slide for Calcofluor white stain

### Specimen/Media/Slide Transport

- Seal all inoculated containers using parafilm provided.
- Keep all specimens and inoculated media/slides at room temperature (RT).
- Transport to the laboratory immediately.

**Questions? Call the Laboratory Information Center at 403-770-3600**