

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

FROM: Brittany Vaughn, MLS(ASCP)SM, Manager of Microbiology
Gerald C. Miller, PhD, Chief of Microbiology and Immunology

DATE: December 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Microbiology Collection Containers

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Regional Medical Laboratory is pleased to announce the addition of the WASP: Walk Away Specimen Processor to our microbiology laboratory. The WASP instrument offers innovative solutions to automate pre-analytical microbiology specimen processing. To make maximum use of the WASP instrument and ensure specimen compatibility, RML will be changing microbiology specimen collection containers.

Starting December 22, 2014, RML will be implementing the use of the new collection swabs and limiting urine containers to one collection cup, in addition to monovettes and vacutainers. When possible, routine bacterial, fungal and mycobacterial cultures should be collected using Copan E-swabs. Sterile containers will remain acceptable for respiratory, tissue and body fluid specimens. E-swabs are flocked swabs in liquid Amies transport media designed for collection of specimens containing aerobes, anaerobes and fastidious bacteria. These swabs are able to pick up more material from the specimen source resulting in improved microbial recovery.

The procedure for specimen collection will remain unchanged with the E-swab. After swabbing the source, the E-swab should be placed in the specimen tube and snapped off at the marked line. Please ensure that the tube is tightly capped before sending specimens to the microbiology laboratory to avoid leaks. Urine for culture must be submitted in an RML-approved cup, vacutainer, or monovette. See the table on the following page for test names and approved collection containers.

Clients will be able to continue using existing supplies until their supply is depleted. As orders are placed, RML will send out the new collection containers. RML will continue to accept samples collected using the old materials as current supplies are depleted.

Please contact Brittany Vaughn, MLS(ASCP)SM, Manager of Microbiology or Gerald C. Miller, PhD, Chief of Microbiology & Immunology at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077 with questions.

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Effective December 22, 2014
RML Microbiology Specimen Container Changes

<u>Test Name</u>	<u>RML Mnemonic</u>	<u>Test Code</u>	<u>New Collection Container</u>
Urine Culture	C URINE RT	6002002	Parter Medical 90 mL sterile cup Item # 243910
Urine Culture	C URI FLX	6000675	<i>Alternative collection containers:</i> BD urine Vacutainer, Item # 364951 Sarstedt Monovettes, Item #10.252 or 10.253
AFB Culture and Smear	C AFB	6000100	COPAN Eswab liquid collection system Regular size applicator swab Item # 480C OR COPAN Eswab liquid collection system Mini-tip size applicator swab Item # 481C
Aerobic Wound Culture and Stain	C WOUN RTS	6000153	
Anaerobic Culture	C WOUN AN	6000050	
Nasal Culture	C NASAL RT	6002011	
Eye Culture and Stain	C EYE RTS	6002006	
Ear Culture and Stain	C EAR RTS	6002007	
Fungus Culture	C FUNGUS	6000300	
Urogenital Culture	C UROG RTS	6002005	
Gonococcus Screen Culture	C GC	6000350	
Group A Strep Culture	C STREP A	6000250	
Group B Strep Culture	C STREP B	6000255	
Throat Culture	C THRT RT	6002003	
MRSA Screen	C MRSA	6002050	
VRE Screen	C VRE SCR	6002125	
Yeast Culture	C YEAST	6002525	
Rapid Strep A Throat Screen	C RAP A SC	6001700	
Screen for Influenza A and B	C A/B FLU	6003125	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	C RSV SC	6001850	
Strep Pneumococcus Antigen	STREP P AG	5700150	