

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

FROM: Kat Herman, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SM, Manager of Microbiology
Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology

DATE: April 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Microbiology Collection Containers - **FINAL NOTICE**

Since December 22, 2014, the microbiology department has been switching all collection containers to those acceptable for use on the WASP (Walk Away Specimen Processor). Implementation of the new process is eminent; all swab specimens and urine specimens must be submitted in appropriate containers.

The Copan E-swab collection system offers a new nylon-flocked fiber technology that provides stronger capillary action and strong hydraulic uptake of liquids, resulting in better specimen collection. This design should also provide a better release of specimen material for culturing. The E-swab is designed to be a more robust transport system that increases viability and recovery of organisms, and therefore provides better results for patients.

As of May 1, 2015, RML will require all swab specimens for routine culture to be submitted in the **Copan E-swab** liquid collection system. Other swabs submitted for these tests will not be accepted. The exceptions are saline tubes for wet-prep/vaginosis profiles and cultures requiring viral media transport or UTM. Tissues and fluid specimens in sterile containers will still be accepted.

Urine specimens for culture must be submitted in a **monovette, urine vacutainer, or the RML-approved cup**. See the table on the following page for test names and approved containers. All approved specimen containers are available through RML Materials Management.

Clients may submit existing unacceptable containers to RML Materials Management prior to May 1 for replacement with acceptable containers.

Please contact Kat Herman, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SM, Manager of Microbiology, or Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology & Immunology at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077 with questions.

Effective May 1, 2015

RML Microbiology Specimen Container Requirements

***NOTE* Specimens for viral culture or PCR must be submitted in viral transport media (UTM).**

Test Name	Test Code	New Collection Container
C URINE RT	6002002	Cardinal 90 mL sterile cup # 61600 Item
C URI FLX	6000675	<i>Alternative collection containers:</i> BD Urine Vacutainer, Item #364951 Sarstedt Monovettes, Item #10.252 or 10.253
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
C WOUN RTS	6000153	
C WOUN AN	6000050	
C NASAL RT	6002011	
C EYE RTS	6002006	
C EAR RTS	6002007	
C FUNGUS	6000300	
C UROG RTS	6002005	
C GC	6000350	
C STREP A	6000250	
C STREP B	6000255	
C THRT RT	6002003	
C MRSA	6002050	
C VRE SCR	6002125	
C YEAST	6002525	
C RAP A SC	6001700	
C FLU A/B	6003125	
C RSV	6001850	
V PROF SWB	2915445	