

Tissue & Bone Specimen - Microbiology Collection Instructions

- Collection Container(s):**
- Sterile 60 mL plastic container (orange-top)
 - Sterile 10 mL tube
 - Anaerobic transport system if available at your site (eg. PRAS, Port-A-Cul, Starplex).
Note: this container cannot be used for Mycobacterial or Fungal culture testing.

- Collection Instructions:**
- General Instructions:
1. **If possible, collect specimen prior to antimicrobial therapy** for greatest diagnostic sensitivity.
 2. Collect specimen under aseptic conditions.
 3. Collect tissue samples from areas within and adjacent to the area of infection.
 4. Ensure to collect a large enough sample to allow performance of all required tests (eg. >3-4 mm biopsy sample).
 5. If collecting multiple specimens, place each specimen into a separate sterile container.
Small tissue (<2cm): embed tissue into anaerobic transport medium (if available) within 5mm from the bottom. Replace and tighten cap immediately.
Large tissue (>2cm): place tissue in a sterile, plastic container. Moisten with non-bacteriostatic sterile saline.
 6. Avoid any contamination when placing tissue into the specimen container.

- Cautions**
- Tissues submitted in a dry, sterile container are sub-optimal and will compromise the recovery of fastidious organisms.
 - Wherever possible, tissue specimens should be submitted for culture and not swabs of tissue. Diagnostic yield is higher from viable, infected tissues.
 - **Specimens submitted in unsterile containers or containers containing formalin will not be processed.**

- Most common Microbiology Tests:**
- Tissue Culture, Routine [LAB269] (Bacterial/Yeast culture)
 - Bone Culture, Routine [LAB4060] (Bacterial/Yeast culture)
 - AFB / Mycobacterial Culture [LAB877] (not routinely indicated)
 - Fungal culture [LAB1294] (not routinely indicated)

- Labelling Requirements:**
- Label all sample containers with:
- **Patient's full first and last name**
 - **Second Identifier** e.g. Personal Health Number (PHN/ULI) or other Government issued identification (Military, Federal, RCMP, Immigration)
 - If a patient demographic label is available, attach this label to the outside of the container
 - **Date and time of collection, the specimen type** (e.g. tissue) **and source** (e.g. Right Knee) must be indicated on the requisition.
 - **If multiple specimens are collected, the specimen source should also be indicated on the label**

For more information regarding specimen labelling see:

[Sample Labeling & Identification | Alberta Precision Laboratories](#)

Deliver to laboratory as soon as possible after collection.

Questions? Call Alberta Precision Laboratories at 1-877-868-6848