TriCore offers technical training for specialized microbiology collection and transport. We also publish instructional materials on microbiology collection at [www.tricore.org](http://www.tricore.org).

**BBL™ CULTURESWAB PLUS™ IN VI PAK (BLUE CAP)**

- Use for routine cultures.
- **Do not** use if aspirate, fluid or tissue can be collected instead.
- Transport at refrigerated temperature.

**ANAEROBE TRANSPORT MEDIUM®**

- For aerobes and anaerobes.
- Add tissue, aspirate or fluid into tube. (Add fluid and aspirate through the rubber stopper with a syringe and needle. **If tissue, keep tube upright**, unscrew cap, add tissue by pushing slightly into the gel, and screw cap back on tightly.
- Transport at refrigerated temperature.

**COPAN RED-LABEL DUAL SWAB**

- **Use for the following tests only:**
  - Streptococcus, Group A, by DNA Probe
  - Streptococcus, Group B, by RT-PCR
  - Streptococcus Culture, Special (detects beta hemolytic Streptococcus Groups A, C, G and Arcanobacterium)
  - Streptococcus, Group A, Rapid Antigen (available ONLY at selected branch labs).
- **Do not use for other cultures.**
- Transport at refrigerated temperature.

**URINE CULTURE TRANSPORT TUBE**

- Collect clean catch urine in sterile container. Draw urine into tube using the adapter straw device. **Allow the tube to fill at least half full or until the straw stops drawing urine.** Mix the tube immediately.
- Transport at room temperature or refrigerated.
- Specimen must arrive at lab within 72 hours from time of collection.
BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLES (FOR BACTERIA AND YEASTS)

- Add 8-10 ml of blood to the aerobic (blue cap) bottle.
- Add 5-7 ml of blood to the anaerobic (yellow cap) bottle.
- Transport at room temperature.

BACTEC™ MYCO/F LYTIC BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLE FOR AFB (ACID-FAST BACILLI) AND FUNGUS

- Red cap bottle.
- Add 3-5 ml of blood to this bottle.
- Transport at room temperature.

STOOL VIALS FOR MICROBIOLOGY TESTING

- Filling all three vials (green, orange and white cap) assures sufficient specimen for all needed Microbiology testing.
- Using the scoop attached to each vial cap, scoop 1-2 teaspoons of specimen into each of the three vials.
- Label all vials with patient name, date of birth, date and time of collection and name of ordering healthcare provider.
- Refrigerate all vials and deliver to any TriCore patient care center within 24 hours.
• For RSV, Influenza Types A and B, Parainfluenza 1, 2 and 3, Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, Herpes simplex virus 1 and 2, and Varicella zoster virus (VZV) by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA).
• For HSV (Herpes Simplex Virus) Culture, Viral Culture, and Chlamydia trachomatis Culture.
• For Mycoplasma hominis & Ureaplasma urealyticum Culture.
• Prior to sample collection, viral transport media must be stored at refrigerated temperature.
• Transport at refrigerated temperature.

• For Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae by nucleic acid amplification from endocervical and/or urethral swabs.
• Transport at room temperature.
• For collection instructions, see page B-13, “Cervical Cancer Screening & Related Testing/Collection Devices.”

• For Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae by nucleic acid amplification.
• See collection kit for collection instructions.
• Transfer 1.0mL from urine cup into transport tube.
• Transport at room temperature.

• For Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae by nucleic acid amplification from cervical specimen.
• Transport at room temperature.
• For collection instructions, see page B-12, “Cervical Cancer Screening & Related Testing/Collection Devices.”
VIRAL TRANSPORT MEDIA (VTM) M5 (GREEN CAP)

- For HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) High Risk test.
- MUST be used for cervical and anal biopsies.
- Store collection kit at room temperature before use.
- Send Specimen Transport Medium™ to lab at room temperature.
- For collection instructions, see page B-13, "Cervical Cancer Screening & Related Testing/Collection Devices."

GENPROBE® APTIMA® COLLECTION KIT FOR ENDOCERVICAL AND/OR URETHRAL SPECIMENS

- For detection of bacterial vaginosis, yeast and trichomonas.
- Read and follow directions exactly as written for vaginal specimens.
- Label specimen transport tube with patient name, date of birth and date/time of collection.
- Transport to the lab at room temperature. Specimen must arrive at lab within 72 hours from time of collection. Otherwise, test cannot be performed.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Call TriCore’s Microbiology Laboratory at 505-938-8879 in Albuquerque or toll-free at 800-245-3296, ext. 8879, or call Client Services at 505-938-8922 or 800-245-3296.