

Quarterly HOTLINE: Effective May 21, 2018

0060152

**Acid-Fast Bacillus (AFB) Culture and AFB Stain****MC AFB**

**Specimen Required:** Patient Prep: Recommended collection: Three sputum specimens at 8-24 hour intervals (24 hours when possible) and at least one first-morning specimen. An individual order must be submitted for each specimen.

Collect: Respiratory specimens. Also acceptable: Body fluid, CSF, gastric aspirate, tissue, or urine.

Specimen Preparation: **Place each specimen in an individually sealed bag.**

**Respiratory Specimens:** Transfer (for each collection) 5-10 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 1 mL)

**Body Fluids or CSF:** Transfer 5 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 1 mL)

**Gastric Aspirates:** Must be neutralized (pH7) with sodium carbonate if transport is delayed for more than four hours. Transfer 5-10 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 1 mL)

**Tissue:** Transfer to a sterile container **and place on gauze moistened with sterile non-bacteriostatic saline to prevent drying.** (Min: Visible)

**Urine:** Transfer at least 40 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 10 mL)

Storage/Transport Temperature: Refrigerated.

Remarks: Specimen source required.

Unacceptable Conditions: Dry material or material collected and transported on a swab.

**Acid Fast Stain:** Stool, blood, bone marrow, grossly bloody specimens, CSF if less than 5 mL, or urine specimens if less than 40 mL.

Stability (collection to initiation of testing): Ambient: 24 hours; Refrigerated: 1 week; Frozen: 1 week