

Quarterly HOTLINE: Effective August 20, 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: Transfer 5 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 1 mL **culture only**)
CSF: Transfer 5 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 1 mL **culture only**. Min: 5 mL **culture and stain**)
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. (Min: Visible)
Urine: Transfer at least 40 mL to a sterile container. (Min: 10 mL **culture only**. Min: 40 mL **culture and stain**)
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**.
Stability (collection to initiation of testing): Ambient: 24 hours; Refrigerated: 1 week; Frozen: 1 week