

How to Collect a Wound Drainage Specimen

Supplies

Aerobic Culture: ESwab, other bacterial culture swab or sterile container for fluid

Anaerobic Culture:

Fluid: Port-A-Cul Anaerobic Culture Vial (Lawson #105866)

Swab: ESwab Regular with Amies (Lawson #254730)

Closed Abscess Procedure

1. Decontaminate skin overlying abscess.
2. Aspirate abscess contents with a sterile needle and syringe.
3. Anaerobic culture:
 - a. Disinfect rubber stopper of Port-A-Cul anaerobic culture vial
 - b. Express all the air from the syringe
 - c. Inject fluid through rubber stopper into Port-A-Cul anaerobic culture vial

Note: Aerobic culture may also be performed from the same specimen in this vial
4. Aerobic culture:
 - a. Inject fluid into sterile container
 - b. If very small volume specimen, remove needle from syringe, stopper, and send syringe

Open Lesion or Abscess Procedure

1. Decontaminate skin adjacent to the wound to remove superficial flora.
2. Open and remove the ESwab tube and swab applicator.
3. Use ESwab to firmly sample the advancing margin of the interior of the lesion.
Do not touch the area of the swab shaft below the red breakpoint line.

Note: Do not submit pus only, as pus does not adequately represent the flora of the lesion.
4. Aseptically remove cap from tube.
5. Insert swab into tube and bend shaft against tube at colored line to break shaft.
6. Replace cap on the tube and secure tightly.
7. Label specimen with patient's name, ID#, specimen source, and date and time of collection.

Note: Both aerobic and anaerobic cultures may be performed from the same ESwab specimen.