National University Hospital

SUMMARY OF TRANSPORT MEDIA FOR MICROBIOLOGY

Please refer to Laboratory Service Guide for further details.

Specimen type	Test required	Container
Blood & Bone Marrow	**Aerobic culture**	 **Bact/Alert bottles (▲)** Aerobic - Adult (green - FA) - Paeds (yellow - PF) Anaerobic - Orange (FN)
	Aerobic & Anaerobic culture	
	Fungus culture (Candidasis only)	
	Fungus culture (for dimorphic fungi and mould)	 Heparin tube (▲)
	Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture	 Heparin tube (▲) (EDTA tube not suitable)
	Molecular Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*	 EDTA tube (▲)
Blood (serum)	**ASOT**	 Plain (red top) or Gold top tube (▲)
	Mycoplasma Total Antibody	
	Aspergillus galactomannan Antigen	
	Cryptococcal Antigen	
Body Fluid, Body Aspirate	**Aerobic & Anaerobic culture**	 Sterile container (▲)
	Fungus culture	
	Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear	

National University Hospital

CSF	**Aerobic culture** **Fungus culture** **Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear** **Cryptococcal Antigen (CSF)** **Aspergillus galactomannan Antigen (CSF)** **Meningitis and Encephalitis Panel PCR**	 Sterile container (▲)

Eye / Cornea Scraping	**Aerobic culture** **Aerobic & Anaerobic culture**	 Chocolate plate; CDC ANA Blood plate (¤)
	Fungus culture	 Sabouraud's plate with chloramphenicol (¤)
	Acanthamoeba culture	 Page Saline (¤)
	Microsporidia microscopy (eye / cornea)	 Slide (¤)

Genital tract swab	**Aerobic culture** **Trichomonas / Candida / Bacterial vaginosis** **Streptococcus Group B screen**	 eSwab (Single swab) (▲)

Wound and miscellaneous site swab	**Aerobic culture** **Aerobic & Anaerobic culture** **Fungus culture** **Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear**	 eSwab (Single swab) (▲)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Respiratory specimens (sputum, ETT aspirate, BAL), nasal and throat swabs</td><td>Aerobic culture</td><td rowspan="5">  Sterile container (▲)
 
eSwab (Single swab) (▲)
(for Nasal & Throat swab)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fungus culture</td></tr>
<tr><td>Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear</td></tr>
<tr><td>Molecular Detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aspergillus galactomannan Antigen (BAL)</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>Respiratory: Nasopharyngeal swab / Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL)</td><td>Respiratory Pathogens Panel PCR</td><td> 
Universal transport medium (UTM) and Flocked swab (¤)
  Sterile container (▲)</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>Respiratory: Nasopharyngeal swab</td><td>Influenza A, B and RSV PCR</td><td> 
Universal transport medium (UTM) and Flocked swab (¤)</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Skin scraping, nail clipping, hair</td><td>Fungus smear</td><td rowspan="3">  Sterile container (▲)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fungus culture</td></tr>
<tr><td>Scabies microscopy (skin scraping)</td></tr>
</table>

National University Hospital

Nasal, Axilla, Groin swabs	**MRSA screen**	 MRSA eSwab (Double swabs) (▲)
	***Candida auris* DNA PCR**	
	***Candida auris* screen**	

Rectal swab	**CRE screen**	 eSwab (Single swab) (▲)
	VRE screen	

Stool	**Aerobic culture**	 Sterile container with spatula (▲)
	Occult blood	
	Ova, cyst and parasites examination	
	***C. difficile* toxin**	
	Faecal Fat	
	Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora, Cystoisospora Microscopy	
	Gastrointestinal Pathogens Panel PCR	
	Microsporidia Microscopy (stool)	
	CRE screen (stool)	
	VRE screen (stool)	
	Faecal Calprotectin	

Tissue / Biopsy / Bone	**Aerobic & Anaerobic culture**	 Sterile container (▲)
	Fungus culture	
	Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear	
	Molecular Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*	
	***Helicobacter pylori* culture (gastric biopsy)**	Gastric biopsy for *H. pylori* culture: send biopsy in 2 – 3 drops sterile saline. The container should be kept upright, tissue must be submerged at all times.

Urethral, Cervical, Neonatal eye	**Gonococcus culture**	 eSwab (Single swab) (▲)

National University Hospital

Urine	**Aerobic culture**	 Boric acid container (Adult) (▲)  Boric acid container (Paeds) (¤)

Urine	**Fungus culture**	 Sterile container (▲)
	Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture (Volume ≥ 40mL)	
	Molecular Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*	
	Urine Red Cell Morphology	

Other Microbiology specimens (please specify collection site)	**Aerobic culture**	 Sterile container (▲)
	Aerobic & anaerobic culture	
	Fungus culture	
	Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture & smear	
	Molecular Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*	 eSwab (Single swab) (▲)
	Gram smear	
	Fungus smear	
	AFB smear	

Various cultures and smears	**Amies Transystem gel swabs are still applicable for non eSwab users from non-NUH institutions**	 Amies Transystem (*)

(▲): For in-house NUH patients, please obtain from MMD ext 25196.

(¤): Please obtain container from NUH Microbiology Laboratory ext 24343.

Note: For non-NUH clients, please liaise with National University Hospital Referral Laboratory (65) 6778 5171.