

Ordering Microbiology Tests

Quick reference guide

Specimen	Comments	Test code in Powerchart	Notes
Pus: superficial sample (e.g. swab from ulcer, wound etc)		<i>Superficial Pus or Swab Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on nature and site of lesion is essential for correct laboratory interpretation of results
Pus: deep/invasive sample (e.g. swab or purulent material collected from incised abscess/collection or intraoperatively)		<i>Deep Invasive Pus or Swab Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If acid fast bacilli examination (test code: <i>Acid Fast Bacilli (M/C/S)</i> or fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>) required, add onto the same specimen
Tissue sample (e.g. biopsy of any tissue)		<i>Tissue Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on nature and site of tissue is essential for correct laboratory interpretation of results If acid fast bacilli examination (test code: <i>Acid Fast Bacilli (M/C/S)</i> or fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>) required, add onto the same specimen
Tissue sample (Gastric biopsy: for Helicobacter pylori Urease Test)	CLOtest Rapid Urease Test slide	<i>HUT Helicobacter pylori Urease</i>	
Fluid sample: from normally sterile site (e.g. pleural, pericardial, ascitic, peritoneal dialysis, synovial fluids)	Fluid collected in sterile container <u>only</u> Fluid collected in sterile container <u>and</u> in blood culture media Fluid collected in blood culture media <u>only</u>	<i>Sterile Fluid Culture (M/C/S)</i> <i>Sterile Fluid Culture plus Fluid in Blood Culture Medium (M/C/S)</i> <i>Sterile Fluid Culture in Blood Culture Medium Only (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on nature and site of fluid is essential for correct laboratory interpretation of results Invasively collected eye fluids (e.g. vitreous or aqueous fluids) should use the <i>Eye Invasive Culture (M/C/S)</i> test code Drain fluid/other normally non-sterile site fluids should use the <i>Drain Fluid Culture (M/C/S)</i> test code If synovial crystal examination (test code: <i>Fluid Synovial Crystals</i>) is required, add onto the same specimen (but note cannot be performed if specimen only collected in blood culture media)
Fluid sample: from drain/other normally non-sterile site		<i>Drain Fluid Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drain fluid results may be misleading; direct collection of a representative specimen in preferable
Urine sample (e.g. midstream, indwelling catheter etc)		<i>Urine Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on mode of collection (i.e. midstream, catheter, clean catch etc) is essential for result interpretation

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Sputum sample (e.g. expectorated or induced)		<i>Respiratory Sputum or ETT Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If acid fast bacilli examination (test code: <i>Acid Fast Bacilli (M/C/S)</i> or fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>) required, add onto the same specimen If GeneXpert (NAAT) test for MTB is required please order: <i>Miscellaneous Pathology Test (PMISC)</i>, enter details of test and add onto the same specimen If Pneumocystis PCR (test code: <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci PCR</i>) is required add onto the same specimen (but note will only be performed on induced sputum)
Bronchoscopically-collected respiratory tract sample		<i>Respiratory Bronchoscopic Collection Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If acid fast bacilli examination (test code: <i>Acid Fast Bacilli (M/C/S)</i> or fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>) required, add onto the same specimen If Pneumocystis PCR (test code: <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci PCR</i>) is required add onto the same specimen If Respiratory virus PCR (test code: <i>Respiratory Virus PCR</i>) is required add onto the same specimen
Nasopharyngeal swab/aspirate	Full respiratory virus PCR panel	<i>Respiratory Virus PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Respiratory Syncytial Virus Direct Antigen</i>: performed on Paediatric NPA, then referred for full PCR panel
Faeces sample	Bacterial pathogens	<i>Faeces PCR Bacterial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If microscopy for faeces erythrocytes and leukocytes required (test code: <i>Faeces Microscopy (RBC,WBC) Only</i>), add onto the same specimen Additional information will be required for microscopy for intestinal helminths before testing will be performed: access the specific request form by typing "<u>helminths microscopy</u>": into QHEPS search field
	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	<i>Faeces Clostridium difficile Screen</i>	
	Viral pathogens	<i>Faeces PCR Viral</i>	
	Protozoal pathogens	<i>Faeces PCR Protozoan or Faeces PCR OCP</i>	
	Intestinal helminths	<i>Faeces Helminth Microscopic Examination</i>	
Blood culture sample	Standard blood culture	<i>Blood Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If collected from PICC line: Enter information in 'Order Comments' Mycobacterial blood culture requires specialised blood culture media: contact laboratory
	Blood culture for mycobacteria	<i>AFB Blood Culture</i>	

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CSF sample		<i>CSF Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If other tests required, add onto the same specimen; e.g. India Ink (test code: <i>India Ink Stain for Cryptococcus microscopy</i>), Cryptococcal antigen (test code: <i>Cryptococcal Antigen</i>), fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>), bacterial/viral PCRs (test codes: <i>Enterovirus PCR, HSV Type 1 PCR, HSV Type 2 PCR, Neisseria meningitidis PCR, Streptococcus pneumoniae PCR</i> etc), acid fast bacilli examination (test code: <i>Acid Fast Bacilli (M/C/S)</i>) For suspected subarachnoid haemorrhage, use test code <i>CSF Subarachnoid Culture (M/C/S)</i>
Swab: superficial sample from ear, nose, throat, or conjunctiva		<i>Ear, Nose, Throat and Conjunctival Swab Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use <i>Eye Invasive Culture (M/C/S)</i> test code unless invasively-collected eye specimens (e.g. corneal scraping or vitreous/aqueous fluids) are collected
Invasively-collected eye sample (e.g. corneal scrapings or vitreous/aqueous fluids)		<i>Eye Invasive Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If other tests required, add onto the same specimen; e.g. fungal culture (test code: <i>Fungal Culture (M/C/S)</i>), viral/other PCRs (test codes: <i>Adenovirus PCR, HSV Type 1 PCR, HSV Type 2 PCR, VZV Varicella PCR, Toxoplasma PCR</i>, etc) Acanthamoeba culture: Enter information in 'Order Comments' and contact laboratory for specific media
Genital swab sample		<i>Genital Swab Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low vaginal swabs for group B streptococcal screening: use test code <i>Group B Streptococcus Culture Screen (M/C/S)</i> instead Urine/endocervical etc specimens for sexual transmissible pathogens: use appropriate test codes (e.g. <i>Chlamydia trachomatis PCR, Neisseria gonorrhoea PCR</i> and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis PCR</i>) instead
Intravascular device tip		<i>Tip Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send device tips other than from intravascular devices without contact with Clinical Microbiologist
Nasal staphylococcal carriage screen		<i>Staphylococcus aureus Screen Culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Renal Unit protocol only
Multiresistant organism	Methicillin-resistant	<i>MRSA Screen Culture</i>	

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screen	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA)		
	Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE)	<i>VRE Screen Culture</i>	
	Multiresistant Gram negative organisms	<i>ESBL/MRGN Screen Culture</i>	
Skin Scrapings, Hair, Nail (Dermatophyte fungi and / or Scabies)	Skin Scrapings, Nail, Hair collected in sterile container (Do not include sharps)	<i>Skin, Hair, Nail Dermatophyte Culture (M/C/S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Scabies examination (test code: <i>Parasites OCP Microscopic Examination (Non – Faeces Only)</i>) add on to the same specimen.