

# Performing Initial Evaluation of Patient Sample

## SCHEDULE 4: Microbiology Sample Stability

- Target transportation time for optimal results is 24 hours.
- For weekends and long weekends when the delay may be 48 to 72 hours, refer to sample stability in table.

Test	Sample Type	Transport Kit	Transport Temp °C	Sample Stability <sup>1</sup>	Instructions
Anaerobic Culture	Tissue, fluid, swab	A.C.T.II Transport vial – Remel	RT	48 hour	
Blood Culture	Blood	BacTalert FA, FN, PF – BioMérieux	RT	24 hours	Send STAT if regular transport will be > 24 hours. Very small pieces of tissue should have 1–2 mL of sterile saline added if transported to another facility.



Test	Sample Type	Transport Kit	Transport Temp °C	Sample Stability <sup>1</sup>	Instructions
Chladmydia/ GC NAAT	Swab-Urethral or cervix	Aptima Unisex Collection Kit (white)	2–30	60 days	
	Swab-vaginal	Aptima Multitest Collection Kit (orange)	2–30	60 days	
	Swab – throat, eye, rectal	Aptima Multitest Collection Kit (orange)	2–30	60 days	
	Urine-initial stream	30 mL – Sterile cup	2–30	24 hours	Sample must be initial stream of urine and a separate collection from the urinalysis or culture. Volume > 30 mL will be rejected.
	Urine – poured off	Aptima urine collection kit (yellow)	2–30	30 days	Sample must be initial stream of urine and a separate collection from the urinalysis or culture. Overfilled or under filled kits will be rejected.
C. difficile toxin	Stool	Sterile cup	2–8	72 hours	Frozen samples are no longer acceptable as they cannot be sent for molecular confirmation.
C. difficile toxin – NAAT method (confirmatory)	Stool	Sterile cup	2–8	5 days	



<sup>1</sup> Sample stability is based on the manufacturer specifications for the transport kit or the test kit.

Test	Sample Type	Transport Kit	Transport Temp °C	Sample Stability <sup>1</sup>	Instructions
CSF Culture	CSF	Original collection container (sterile CSF kit)	RT	Process/ handle as STATs	Deliver STAT to microbiology department.
Environmental (reagent, hemodialysis, reverse osmosis (RO) water)	Water	Sterile cup	2–8	24 hours	
Fluid Culture	Any	Sterile cup or A.C.T II Transport vial	RT	24 hours	Inoculating fluid into blood culture bottles is acceptable if A.C.T. II media unavailable.
Hepatitis (HBSAb, HBSAg, HBCoreAb, HepA IgM)	Serum	SST tube	2–8	7 days	
Influenza NAAT (FSJH/MMH/PRRH)	Nasal/ nasopharyngeal swab	Viral Transport kit	2–8	24 hours	
			RT	8 hours	
	nasopharyngeal wash (NPW) /trach asp/BAL	Sterile cup	2–8	24 hours	
			RT	2 hours	



<sup>1</sup> Sample stability is based on the manufacturer specifications for the transport kit or the test kit.

Test	Sample Type	Transport Kit	Transport Temp °C	Sample Stability <sup>1</sup>	Instructions
Influenza/RSV NAAT (UHNBC)	Nasal/nasopharyngeal swab	Viral Transport kit	RT	24 hours	
			2–8	7 days	
	Nasopharyngeal wash	Sterile cup	2–8	72 hours	
Lower Respiratory Culture	Sputum, ET aspirate, Lavage	Sterile cup	RT	24 hours	
Routine Culture	Swab	Starswab II – Starplex Scientific	RT	48 hours	
RSV antigen	NPW	Sterile cup	2–8	24 hours	
Stool Culture	Stool	Para-Pak Enteric plus – Meridian Bioscience Inc.	RT	96 hours	
		Sterile cup or clean vial	RT	2 hours	
Tissue Culture	Any	Sterile cup	RT	24 hours	Send STAT if regular transport will be > 24 hours. Very small pieces of tissue should have 1–2 mL of sterile saline added if transported to another facility.



<sup>1</sup> Sample stability is based on the manufacturer specifications for the transport kit or the test kit.

Test	Sample Type	Transport Kit	Transport Temp °C	Sample Stability <sup>1</sup>	Instructions
Trichomonas by NAAT	Vaginal and non-genital	Aptima Multitest Collection Kit (orange)	2–30	60 days	
	Cervix and Urethra	Aptima Unisex Collection Kit (white)	2–30	60 days	
	Urine	Aptima Urine Collection Kit (yellow)	2–30	60 days	
Urine Culture	Urine	Sterile cup – unpreserved	2–6	24 hours	Unpreserved urine samples at RT > 2 hours will be rejected.
Urine Culture	Urine	Urine transport Media – BD vacutainer	RT	48 hours	