

A person wearing a blue protective suit and white gloves is handling a clear plastic specimen container with a red cap and a barcode label. The container is being held over a white container. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with other people in protective suits.

# User Guide for Specimen Collection

**ROCHESTER**  
REGIONAL HEALTH

## Blood



### BD Bactec Blood Culture Bottles™

**Preferred use:** Blood culture collection.

**Special considerations:** A typical blood culture will include a set with one aerobic bottle (blue cap) and one anaerobic bottle (yellow cap). The pediatric bottle (pink cap) is reserved for pediatric patients or patients who are difficult to draw.

**To reduce the chance of a false positive result, RRH Policy states to collect and discard 1ml of blood using an approved non-additive discard tube or syringe prior to filling the bottles.**

## Miscellaneous



### BBL Culture Swab™

**Preferred use:** For collection of many different aerobic bacterial cultures and FUNGAL cultures where the infected site can be easily accessed with the swab:

- Throat and nose
- Eye and ear
- Skin
- Wound and genital area

**Special considerations:** Although it is possible to share a single swab among multiple tests, sharing a swab can reduce the sensitivity of the testing being performed. If a single swab is sent for culture and gram stain, a gram stain will not be performed. **E-swab is recommended, as both gram stain and culture can be performed from one collection swab.**

Other recommended uses for this transport are Group B Strep PCR testing, yeast cultures and for Group A Strep PCR testing on throat samples.



### Sterile Cup

**Preferred use:** For the collection of samples that cannot easily be collected with a culture swab. This includes but is not limited to:

- Urine
- Sputum
- Stool
- Sterile fluids
- Tissue/bone samples
- Skin and scalp scrapings
- Nail clippings
- Catheter tips
- IUD

**Special considerations:** If urine is collected in a sterile cup, refrigerate immediately to prevent bacterial overgrowth.



### BD E-Swab

**Preferred use:** Collection of samples for aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious bacteria. Multiple cultures may be performed from a single E swab transport tube. If requesting a gram stain with cultures, please use the E swab transport. This transport is recommended for throat samples collected for Group A Strep PCR and Candida auris PCR from bilateral axilla and groin specimens. Do not use this transport for vaginosis screens or Group B Strep PCR.

**Special considerations:** This device is for swab collections only. Do not use for the collection of fluids and tissues.

## Miscellaneous *(continued)*



### Oral Fluid Drug Testing

**Preferred use:** Oral fluid collection ONLY.

**Special considerations:** Please review and follow all collection instructions included with the collection device.

## Parasite



### Pinworm Paddle™

**Preferred use:** Pinworm examination from anal area preparation.

**Special considerations:** The paddle has a sticky and non-sticky side. Use the sticky side of the paddle to obtain a sample.

## Pathology



### Formalin Containers

**Preferred use:** To preserve tissue specimens for processing and preparation in the pathology/histology department.

**Container Sizes:**

- 10 ml fill to 20 ml
- 20 ml fill to 40 ml
- 45ml fill to 90 ml
- 60 ml fill to 120 ml
- 90 ml fill to 180 ml (120ml and 240ml also available)

## Sexually Transmitted Infection



### ROCHE COBAS PCR Swab Kit

**Preferred use:** The transport of vaginal, endocervical, pharyngeal, rectal, and urethral samples for **Neisseria gonorrhoea** and **Chlamydia trachomatis** testing. Also for the transport of *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium* but cannot be used for pharyngeal or rectal culture for these two organisms.

**Special considerations:** It is very important that samples are properly collected. The swab must be broken off at the indicated height before placing into the collection tube. Two swabs are provided for use with endocervical samples. Use the large swab to clean excess mucous and discard in biohazard trash. The smaller swab is used for specimen collection and placed in the tube for testing. Only one swab is used for other sample types. If collecting urethral specimen, please submit a request for a special smaller tipped swab used for collection.

## Sexually Transmitted Infection *(continued)*



### ROCHE COBAS PCR Urine Kit

**Preferred use:** Used for the transfer of urines for *Neisseria gonorrhoea* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* testing, *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium* testing. First catch (not midstream) voided urine is necessary and can be collected and sent for testing. The transfer of the urine into the PCR tube can be done post transport if delivery to the laboratory takes place within 24 hours of collection.

**Special considerations:** A first catch (not midstream) voided urine is necessary. If this is not possible, ensure the patient has not voided for a minimum of 1 hour prior to collection. DO NOT provide a clean catch samples for this testing.

## Stool



### Parapak™ ECOFIX™ O&P Preservative

**Preferred use:** For preservation of stool for ova and parasite examination when extended transport times are expected (> 12 hours).

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** Preservative vials provided by different manufacturers may be similar in appearance, but have different uses. The ova and parasite vial must indicate use for ova and parasite.



### Parapak™ Carey Blair Stool Culture Preservative

**Preferred use:** For preservation of stool for Extended Enteric Bacterial Panel PCR.

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** Preservative vials provided by different manufacturers may be similar in appearance, but have different uses. The stool culture vial must indicate use for culture.



### FIT™, Occult Blood

**Preferred use:** Stool collection ONLY.

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** Please review and follow all collection instructions included with the collection device. Kit comes with supplies so that sample can be returned to the lab either by drop-off to a Lab PSC or via USPS. Patient should be instructed to label the specimen vial with their name and date of birth prior to collection and return the specimen with completed lab requisition.



### Urine Culture/Urinalysis Collection Kit

**Preferred use:** Collection of urine for urine culture and urinalysis.

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** The primary urine cup contains a needle in the cap, which is necessary for the filling of the tubes. Care must be taken to ensure this needle is covered prior to transport or must be discarded in a sharps container.



### Urine Drug Testing Cup with Temp Strip

**Preferred use:** Urine drug testing collection only.

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** Temperature strip should be read within four minutes of collection. Press lid top down firmly and push down on the latch to secure the specimen for transport.

## Virology/Chlamydia



### UTM™ Viral/Chlamydia/Bordetella/Covid Transport Media

**Preferred use:** Culture of viruses including Influenza, Herpes, Parainfluenza, Rhinovirus, CMV, Varisella virus, Adenovirus, Enterovirus, RSV and COVID. Chlamydia culture. Collection of NP samples for Bordetella PCR.

**Also acceptable for:** Influenza A/B/RSV PCR and Sars Covid-2 NP and Nasal swabs.

**Special considerations:** The tube may be stored at room temperature prior to use. Refrigeration after collection will minimize overgrown of any bacteria that may be present in the sites that have been cultured.

## Women's Health



### BD Affirm™ VPIII ATTS

**Preferred use:** Vaginosis screen for candida albicans, gardnerella vaginalis and trichomonas vaginalis.

**Also acceptable for:** N/A

**Special considerations:** The specimen collection swab must be submitted in the tube for testing to be completed.



### Starplex Starswab II™

**Preferred use:** Vaginosis screen for candida albicans, gardnerella vaginalis and trichomonas vaginalis.

**Also acceptable for:** Routine bacterial culture of aerobic and anaerobic organisms, gram stain and yeast cultures.

**Special considerations:** Although it is possible to share a single swab among multiple tests, using a single swab can reduce the sensitivity of the tests being performed. For multiple tests it is recommended that more than one swab be sent for testing. Not recommended for the collection of samples for acid-fast organisms or molds.



### SurePath™

**Preferred use:** Collection and Transport of samples for pap smear.

**Also acceptable for:** High risk HPV

**Special considerations:** N/A



### BD Molecular Swab Kit

**Preferred use:** Vaginitis Panel PCR assay.



## Rochester Regional Health Laboratories Ambulatory Diagnostic Services

Rochester Regional Health Laboratories offers a comprehensive menu of services that support many indications, including women's health and infectious diseases. We strive to offer state-of-the-art testing solutions that generate accurate and timely results to support clinical decisions. In addition to this specimen guide, more in-depth resources can be found on our website within the **Online Reference Manual**: [rochestergeneral.testcatalog.org/](http://rochestergeneral.testcatalog.org/) to assist clinicians with test selection and provide detailed test information.



### **Dr. Roberto Vargas**

*System Executive Medical Director, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Rochester Regional Health*

### **Ambulatory Contact Information**

**Main Phone Tree: (585)-922-LABS (5227)**

- **Client Service:** Option 3 or 585.922.1811
- **Courier Dispatch:** Option 4 or 585.922.1165
- **Laboratory Supplies:** FAX ORDERS TO: 585.247.8047 or call 585.429.2238
- **Home Draws:** Option 5 or 585.922.1160
- **Patient Service Center Info Line: Option 8**
- **Order Test Requisitions - 585.360.0182 (FAX)**

**Main Lab Website Directory:** [rochesterregional.org/labs](http://rochesterregional.org/labs)

**Patient Service Center Listing (PDF):** [rochesterregional.org/lablocations](http://rochesterregional.org/lablocations) Select Locations PDF

**Department of Pathology Website:** [rochesterregional.org/pathology](http://rochesterregional.org/pathology)

### **Customer Support**

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