

# MICROBIOLOGY

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION – GENERAL

### INFORMATION SHEET

Q-Pulse No	MWS22
Version	1
Site	HUB Microbiology

1. In order to produce meaningful results, specimens should be taken carefully (before starting antibiotics whenever possible) and should be sent in the appropriate sterile container. Guidance should be sought from the laboratory if there is any uncertainty.
2. The quicker the delivery of a specimen to the laboratory, the better the quality of the result.
3. Please use the electronic requesting system whenever possible. If making manual request, please ensure correct request form (blue) is used and **complete all details**. In order to interpret the results correctly, it is extremely important to state **antibiotic treatment** (for bacteriology) and **date of onset** or contact (for serology / virology).
4. Antibiotic sensitivity tests will be performed on any significant bacterial pathogens where indicated. Requests for particular antibiotics should be specified.
5. Specimens from "high risk" patients should be labelled appropriately.
6. Ensure the specimen container is securely closed.
7. **Mismatched request form & specimen, inadequate patient details or unlabelled specimen:** we will not normally examine unlabelled specimens or samples where there is doubt as to the correct identification of the specimen or patient. This is to protect the patient from erroneous results. However, for specimens that cannot easily be repeated (eg. CSF) we will endeavour to substantiate the correct identification prior to discarding. For other important specimens (eg. antibiotic assays) we will notify the clinician/ward so that a repeat sample can be taken immediately.
8. For information on collection and transport of individual specimens refer to:

Specimen collection – swabs

Specimen collection – urines

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea detection by NAATs

Mycology – fungal culture

Blood Cultures