Special Collection Quick Reference Guide

**Note:** Collection, transport, and stability are subject to change. Refer to the MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory test catalog for latest collection and processing guidelines.

**Disclaimer:** Remember to label all specimen containers with patient’s full name, date of birth, and date of collection.

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by PCR, Female**

Use for molecular testing for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea from genital sources.

- **Stability:** Samples in Cobas media are stable for up to 7 days refrigerated.

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by PCR, Female or Male from Non-genital Sources (throat, rectal, oral, etc.)**

Specimens must be placed in Aptima collection tubes for send-out testing.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by PCR, Female**

Use for molecular testing for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea from genital sources.

- **Stability:** Samples in Cobas media are stable for up to 7 days refrigerated.

**Viral Transport Medium**

Use for virus testing such as Herpes Simplex, Varicella Zoster, Chlamydia Culture or Respiratory Panel by PCR. No wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs are to be placed in the Viral Transport Medium.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated

**Dual Swab for Strep Screen**

Use for molecular testing for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea.

- **Stability:** Samples in Cobas media are stable for up to 7 days refrigerated.

**Transport System**

Use for aerobic, anaerobic, and fungus cultures, and Strept Molecular tests.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient
- **Stability:** Preferably 24 hours, but accepted up to 72 hours after collection for all organisms except Gonorrhea, which is 9 hours ambient or 29 hours refrigerated.

**Specimen Collection Tube for send-out testing.**

Place in Cobas urine transport tube, filling between lines indicated on the collection tube.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated

**Transportation**

Vigorously agitate collection device in the vial solution. Do not leave device in the vial.

**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for enteric culture and/or bacterial culture. For GI Panel by PCR, also collect 1 ml of stool specimen in a sterile specimen cup. The unpreserved sample is needed for a reflex C. difficile toxin test to be run if the PCR test is positive.

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated

**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 2 months
- **Testing available includes:** Giardia antigen, Cryptosporidium antigen and microscopic examination for ova and parasites (sent to SHL).

**Ova and Parasites**

Use for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites.

- **Transportation temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

**Clostridium difficile toxin**

Uniformed stool sample collected in a sterile specimen cup is the only acceptable specimen type.

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

**Fecal Occult Blood**

Use for transport of stool specimens for occult blood. The sample must be placed in the cassette within 4 hours of collection. If not, the lab can run an occult blood card on stool samples that are less than 24 hours old.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 15 days ambient temperature or 30 days refrigerated when in green cassette.

**UA and Urine Culture**

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 24 hours unpreserved, 48 hours preserved.

**Note:** The gray tube is the boric acid transport tube for urine culture testing or legionella antigen kit testing. The yellow tube has a preservative and is used for urinalysis testing only. Use the straw to transfer urine into the transport tubes. Transfer urine into the gray tube first, then yellow if using both tubes.

**Urine Culture Transport**

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 48 hours preserved

**Note:** Cleansing towelettes and sterile specimen cups (used for urine chemistry testing and drug screen testing) may be ordered separately. Please consult Atlas test catalog for more information about specimen collection and handling.

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by PCR, Urine, Male or Female**

Use for molecular testing for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea.

- **Place in Cobas urine transport tube, filling between lines indicated on the collection tube.**
- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated

**Collection reminder:** Urine should be collected to include the initial urine stream void rather than a mid-stream collection to ensure collection of potential infected epithelial cells.

**Stool Culture Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR**

Use for transport of stool specimens for bacterial culture, C. difficile and/or other enteric pathogens.

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated

**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for GI Panel by PCR.

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 3 days

**Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites.

- **Transportation temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 2 months
- **Testing available includes:** Giardia antigen, Cryptosporidium antigen and microscopic examination for ova and parasites (sent to SHL).

**Clostridium difficile toxin**

Uniformed stool sample collected in a sterile specimen cup is the only acceptable specimen type.

- **Transport temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

**Fecal Occult Blood**

Use for transport of stool specimens for occult blood. The sample must be placed in the cassette within 4 hours of collection. If not, the lab can run an occult blood card on stool samples that are less than 24 hours old.

- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated
- **Stability:** 15 days ambient temperature or 30 days refrigerated when in green cassette.

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by PCR, Urine, Male or Female**

Use for molecular testing for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea.

- **Place in Cobas urine transport tube, filling between lines indicated on the collection tube.**
- **Transport temperature:** Ambient or Refrigerated

**Collection reminder:** Urine should be collected to include the initial urine stream void rather than a mid-stream collection to ensure collection of potential infected epithelial cells.

**Stool Culture Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR**

Use for transport of stool specimens for bacterial culture, C. difficile and/or other enteric pathogens.

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**Stool Culture**

Use for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites.

- **Transportation temperature:** Refrigerated
- **Stability:** Refrigerated up to 3 days

**Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR stability:** Refrigerated up to 4 days

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