

TEST INFORMATION UPDATE

Conversion to eSwab for Culture Collections

Effective Date: January 6th, 2023

Specimen Collection with eSwab



What is eSwab?

The eSwab system from Copan Diagnostics is a liquid-based multi-purpose collection and transport system that maintains the viability of aerobic, anaerobic, and fastidious bacteria.

The eSwab system consists of a flocked swab and a screw-capped transport tube containing 1 mL of liquid Amies medium

Why use eSwab?

eSwab collects and releases more specimen, improving the recovery of pathogens. The eSwab system generates 1 mL of the patient sample, providing a uniform sample for culture and reducing the need to collect multiple swabs.

When should I use eSwab?

eSwab should be used instead of a traditional swab for all bacteria culture specimen collections*.

***Tissue or fluid is preferred over a swab for anaerobe, wound, and fungal cultures whenever possible. Swabs are not accepted for AFB (Mycobacterial) cultures. eSwab does not replace other specialized collection kits (Covid, Respiratory Pathogen Panel, Covid+flu, RSV+flu+covid, CMV saliva, HSV, VZV, Mpox (Monkeypox), Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae (CGD), Trichomonas vaginalis, Mycoplasma genitalium, Bacterial Vaginosis Syndromic testing, and/or Candida vaginosis/Trichomonas vaginalis (CV,TV) tests) Please see VPLS test directory for appropriate collection for these tests.**

How to Use eSwab

1. Put on gloves.
2. For wounds, prepare the collection site by debriding and/or rinsing with non-bacteriostatic saline as needed.
3. Open the peel pouch.
4. Remove the tube and label it with lab-ready label or two patient identifiers.
5. Remove the swab — to prevent contamination, avoid touching the shaft above the pink molded breakpoint.
6. Collect the patient sample with the swab.
7. Remove the cap from the tube and insert the swab all the way to the bottom.
8. Holding the swab close to the rim of the tube, break the shaft at the pink breakpoint line while keeping the tube away from your face.
9. Screw the cap tightly to prevent leaking.
10. Dispose of the remainder of the shaft.
11. Confirm patient label on the tube.
12. Transport to the lab promptly at room temperature in a specimen biohazard bag.



How to Order eSwab

1. **In-patient Units:** eSwabs are available through Central Supply. Contact your Hospital Service Center for more information.
2. **VUMC Ambulatory Locations:** eSwabs are available in HSS/PMM system. PMM Item # 569
3. **VPLS Locations:** eSwabs are available to order by faxing your order form to VPLS at 615-936-0743.

For more information or assistance, please contact VPLS at 1-800-551-5227 or Lab Client Services at 615-875-5227 (5-LABS)