Anaerobic and Aerobic Culture with Gram Stain

Comment: Sites submitting specimens for testing must be approved by the Epidemiology Program at the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure. Please call NPHL for clarification at 402.559.2440 or 866.290.1406.

Comment: A SPECIAL MICROBIOLOGY Requisition or NPHLWeb order must accompany this specimen.

Synonym: Abscess or wound culture, anaerobic culture
LISCode: ANACU
Method: Test includes: Gram stain, isolation and identification of potential aerobic and anaerobic pathogens, and initiation of antibiotic susceptibility tests when indicated.
Availability: Daily; results in 24-72 hours. Culture showing no bacterial growth will be reported after 48 hours. Complete reports of cultures with anaerobic bacteria may take as long as 5 days after receipt of culture, depending upon the nature of the organisms isolated. Final report is at 5 days.
Specimen: Pus tissue or other material properly obtained from an abscess, biopsy, aspirate, drainage, exudate, lesion, or wound. Specimens will also be cultured for aerobic growth.
Collect: Some anaerobes will be destroyed by contact with oxygen for only a few seconds. Overlying and adjacent areas of the wound/abscess must be carefully disinfected to eliminate contamination with normal aerobic flora. Ideally, pus or other fluid obtained by needle aspiration is transported to the lab as soon as possible in a capped syringe. Sampling of open lesions is enhanced by deep aspiration using a sterile catheter. Curettings of base of an open lesion are optimal. If irrigation is necessary, sterile normal saline may be used.
Volume: One anaerobic Culturette and two aerobic Culturettes or 0.5 mL pus or other fluid from aspirated site in syringe with needle removed and replaced with a cap.
Comment: Note suspected organism(s) on the test request form. Specimens not received in anaerobic transport swab or closed syringe or refrigerated are unacceptable. Specimens from sites which have anaerobic bacteria as normal flora will be rejected (e.g., throat, feces, colostomy sites, rectal swabs, bronchial washes, cervical-vaginal mucosal swabs, sputum, skin and superficial wounds, voided or catheterized urine, and decubitus ulcer).
Reference: No aerobic or anaerobic growth.
Comment: Culture of specimens from sites harboring endogenous anaerobic organisms or contaminated by endogenous organisms may be misleading with regard to etiology and appropriate therapy.
Transport: Room Temperature
Specimen must be shipped via NPHL ground courier or Federal Express. Call NPHL at 402.559.2440 or 866.290.1406 for pick up.