

## Microbiology Test Ordering Guide

### Specific Aerobic Culture Types:

Specimen is:	Ear	Eye	Nose or Nasopharyngeal	Genital		Sterile Body Fluid	Lower Respiratory
	Exudate from otitis media or otitis externa	Conjunctival, lid margin, aspirate (vitreal, aqueous), corneal scrapings, donor corneas	Nares, nasopharyngeal, sinuses	Vaginal, cervical, urethral		Except blood	Sputum, BAL, miniBAL, bronch brush, tracheal aspirate
Order this test:	Culture Ear	Culture Eye	Culture Nasal/Nasopharyngeal	Culture Genital without <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	Culture Genital with <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	Culture Fluid	Culture Lower Respiratory
	<b>EACUL</b> LAB11370	<b>EYCUL</b> LAB943	<b>NPCUL</b> LAB11369	<b>GNCUL</b> LAB10385	<b>GCCUL</b> LAB10376	<b>FLCUL</b> LAB269	<b>LRCUL</b> LAB900
Collection Devices:	Aerobic Swab or Sterile Container	Aerobic Swab or Sterile Container	Aerobic Swab or Sterile Container	Aerobic Swab		Sterile container	Sterile container




### General Aerobic Culture Type:

#### Culture Routine with Gram Stain (GECUL) – LAB897

For detecting, identifying, and determining in vitro susceptibility of aerobic bacteria.

Use when a site-specific or organism-specific culture is not available. Typically used for wounds, abscesses, skin, and other superficial sites

### Aerobic Swabs (not suitable for anaerobic collection):

	<b>BBL Culture Swab (Single swab) or equivalent aerobic sponge swab</b> <i>Clear cap (color can vary). Single swab with plastic shaft and synthetic tip. <b>Sponge</b> with liquid stuart or liquid amies transport medium.</i>
	<b>Thermo Scientific Remel Bactiswab (dual swab)</b> <i>Red cap. Dual swabs with plastic shaft and synthetic tip. <b>Sponge</b> with liquid stuart transport medium. Used for GAS antigen and reflex throat culture.</i>
	<b>BBL Culture Swab (Mini-tip)</b> <i>Green cap. Narrow mini-tip swab with soft aluminum shaft. <b>Sponge</b> with liquid amies transport medium. Suitable for aerobic collection from the eye, male urethra, nasopharynx, and other sites requiring the use of a small tip swab</i>

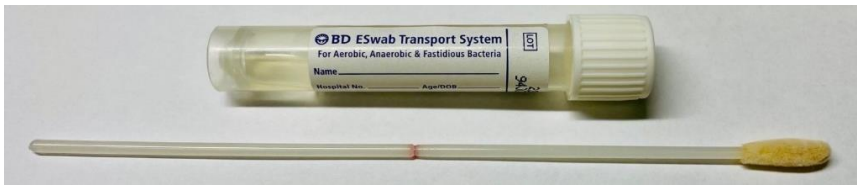


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### Anaerobic Culture Type:

<b>Culture Anaerobic and Aerobic with Gram Stain (ANCUL) – LAB10015</b> For detecting, identifying, and determining in vitro susceptibility of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.	
<b>Acceptable sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirates (collected with needle and syringe), surgical collection of tissue, bone, and biopsy samples. Anaerobic swabs are acceptable only if collected from <u>anatomic regions that support anaerobic growth and are not normally colonized with flora</u> (<b>deep</b> wounds/abscesses or cysts).</li> <li>Specific body fluids (if anaerobic organisms are suspected) such as: synovial, pericardial, pleural, CSF, or peritoneal</li> <li>Specific genital specimens: specimens collected via laparoscopy, culdocentesis, IUD, or surgically collected specimens</li> </ul>
<b>Unacceptable sources</b>	Superficial sites, wounds, abscesses, skin, urine, routine genital specimens, respiratory specimens (except: surgically collected tissue or lung biopsy), gastrointestinal specimens, ear, eye, throat, tonsil, nose, sinuses
<b>Acceptable collection devices:</b> Tissue or bone in sterile container, E-swab, or anaerobic gel swab (e.g. BBL Culture Swab <b>Plus</b> ) <b>Unacceptable collection devices:</b> Aerobic sponge swab (e.g. BBL Culture Swab)	

### Swabs for Anaerobic Collection:

Note: This list pertains to collection via swab only. Collection via other means (e.g. fine needle aspirate, etc) is also acceptable

	<b>BD ESwab Transport System or equivalent ESwab kit</b> <i>White cap (color can vary). Flocked swab with transport vial containing 1mL Liquid Amies Transport Medium</i>
	<b>BBL Culture Swab Plus</b> <i>Blue cap. Double or single swab with a plastic shaft and synthetic tip. Amies Gel transport medium.</i>
	<b>BBL Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector</b> <i>Culture swab contained within a gas-impermeable glass tube. Grey top. (This product is being discontinued by the manufacturer)</i>

<b>Important Reminder</b>	
<b>!</b>	<b>In all cases, it is important to correctly select the specimen type and source from the categorical lists when entering the order.</b> The specimen type and source helps dictate the media that is setup for the test and guides work up of the culture. Entering the specimen source in the order comments is <b>not</b> a replacement for the correct selection of the specimen type and source.