

General Laboratory Specimen Collection and Transportation Information

- **Specimens Delivery:** Deliver to the laboratory to the Specimen Drop-off Window.
 - Use additional patient chart label to log the specimen into the Laboratory Log Book.
 - Please sign with full name, not just initials, for regulatory reasons.
 - Specimen must be formally handed off directly to a laboratory staff member.
- **Small quantity of specimen for multiple tests:** Please prioritize tests on the requisition. This prevents further calls and important tests being missed.
- **Large tissue specimens:** These MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE LAB same day as collection for proper fixation of tissue in formalin.
 - “Large cottage cheese” or 32oz size container are considered large tissue specimens. (See *Large Cases* sheet for additional examples)
 - Specimen must be further sectioned by Pathology Assistants to allow formalin to penetrate all the tissue.
 - This minimizes the tissue from autolyzing and becoming necrotic (unusable for diagnostic purposes).
- **Cultures:**
 - C&S is the same as ordering Aerobe cultures. Sensitivities are automatically done when bacteria growth is seen. No need to write C&S, just mark the boxes.
 - If collecting using swabs and both Aerobe and Anaerobe are requested, collect both the red (aerobe) and blue (anaerobe) top swabs.
 - All cultures are examined for 3 days for bacterial growth, unless otherwise indicated.
 - *Ortho Culture Hold 10 Days* indicates that the culture will be held for 10 days and examined for growth each day. This is for Orthopedic specimens ONLY!
- **Kidney/Bladder Stones:** If sending for pathology, do NOT place in formalin. Send down as fresh tissue. These are sent to an outside laboratory for analysis.