










# Microbiology Specimen Guide

Test	Specimen Container	Notes
<b>Bacterial Microscopy &amp; Culture &amp; Sensitivities. (MCS), including MRSA and VRE screens</b>		Contains transport media. <b>NOT suitable for PCR</b>
<b>Respiratory Virus PCR</b> <b><u>HOSPITAL or HIGH RISK</u></b> ( Influenza A+B, RSV )		Contents: Viral Transport Media tube & swab(s). <b>NOT Suitable for Culture</b>
<b>Respiratory Virus PCR</b> <b><u>ROUTINE</u></b>		Plain dry swab from throat & a nasopharyngeal flocked swab from the Nasopharynx. <b>NOT Suitable for Culture</b>
<b>Pertussis PCR</b>		Plain dry swab from throat &/or a nasopharyngeal flocked swab from the Nasopharynx. <b>NOT Suitable for Culture</b>
<b>Herpes PCR</b>		Plain Dry Swab <b>NOT Suitable for HPV</b>
<b>Chlamydia/Gonorrhoeae PCR – Female genital</b> Also suitable for other non genital sites e.g. conjunctival		
<b>Urine – MCS</b> <b>Fluids &amp; Tissue (all)</b> <b>Urine PCR for Chlamydia &amp; Gonorrhoeae</b> (First part of void - patient should not have voided in previous 1-2 hours). <b>Fungal Collections **</b> <b>NB: No Scalpel Blades</b>		<b>Ensure lid is securely Fastened</b> All urine samples must be delivered to the laboratory as soon as practicable, if there is a delay please refrigerate. This container is also preferred for Sputum.
<b>Faeces</b> Microscopy, OCP & Culture Faecal PCR Helicobacter Pylori Occult Blood (Hospital patients only) Reducing Substances (contact lab)		Minimum amount - walnut sized specimen per test. Deliver to the laboratory as soon as practicable, if there is a delay please refrigerate.
<b>Faeces – Occult Blood</b> A separate sample needs to be collected each day for 3 days. A separate collection tube must be used on each occasion.		Do not deliver samples one-by-one, deliver to the laboratory following the final collection. <b>NOT for Hospital patient collections</b>

All specimens should be treated as potentially hazardous and transported to the laboratory in a two-pocket bag.