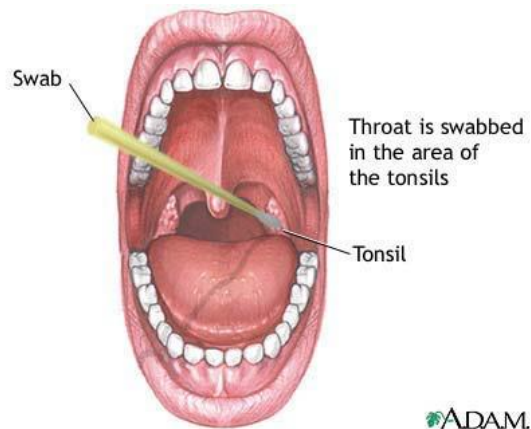


Throat Culture Collection

**CLEARLY LABEL SPECIMEN WITH PATIENT'S FULL NAME,
DATE OF BIRTH, DATE AND TIME OF COLLECTION.
*Specimen may be rejected if this crucial step is omitted!***



*Throat cultures should only be collected by licensed and trained medical staff.
Laboratory staff does NOT collect.*

1. Have a tongue depressor and a culturette for each specimen to be collected. Be sure to use double culturette.
2. Use fresh disposable gloves.
3. Have patient in seated position.
4. Identify patient with 2 identifiers – full name and date of birth.
5. Explain to the patient what you are going to do.
6. Ask them to open mouth and say "Ahh".
7. Place the tongue depressor on the tongue with slight pressure to assist the patient in keeping the tongue down and out of the way.
8. Place the swab in the back of the throat, swabbing the general area of the tonsils (or where the tonsils used to be) and the posterior pharynx. The tongue and oral mucosa should be avoided to reduce contamination by normal oral flora.
9. Place the culturette back in its plastic sleeve and label with patient's first and last name, patient's date of birth, date and time of collection and legible collector's initials.