

# Fungal Collection Guide

## Wounds/body fluids and other cultures using swabs or syringes.

1. Clean the surface area with 70% alcohol, followed by Povidone Iodine. Allow to dry.
2. Aspirate (if possible) or swab deepest portion of lesion.
3. If using syringe, please expel fluid into a sterile tube or remove needle and replace with sterile plug before transporting to laboratory. ***Specimen should not be transported to lab with needle still attached.*** If scant amount of specimen is obtained and is stuck in needle, it is acceptable to flush needle with approximately 0.5 - 1 mL sterile saline to expel the specimen into a sterile tube for transport. Please note this circumstance on requisition.

## Skin or nails for fungal culture

1. Clean area around portion to be cultured with 70% alcohol.
2. Clip numerous portions of affected nail or scrape with slide or scalpel affected areas of skin.
3. Place in sterile container for culture.
4. If fungal skin, hair, nail sample will be direct plated by the provider, refer to instructions below.

## Instructions for Fungal Culture Plates (Skin, Hair, Nails)

1. Use one Inhib Mold (IMA) and one Mycosel agar plate for each culture that is ordered. The agars test for both yeast and mold.
2. Check expiration dates periodically. ***Do not use expired plates!***
3. Please store agar plates refrigerated (2-8 degrees Celsius) before use. Plates should be stored upside down (agar side up) to prevent drying, excessive moisture and/or contamination.
4. Let agar plates warm to room temperature before use.
5. After inoculating the agar plates, please use blue sealing tape to seal each plate. Sealing the plates helps prevent contamination.
6. Label both agar plates with the patient's full name, date of birth, source, date and time.
7. After inoculation, the plates should be kept at room temperature until transported to laboratory.