# MYCOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION INFORMATION

## Sputum (tracheal lavage, bronchial lavage, and aerosol collection)
- Sputum should be fresh. Collect in the early morning.
- Have patient remove dentures and rinse mouth.
- Sputum should be the result of a deep cough (not saliva) or should be induced by an aqueous aerosol.
- Collect 5 to 10 mL in a sterile container.

## Respiratory specimens other than sputum
These specimens include tracheal aspirates, lung biopsy material, and bronchoscopy specimens. They are collected aseptically by physicians and immediately sent to the laboratory for examination and processing.

## Blood
Collect blood aseptically to avoid microbial contamination. Clean the collection site with a disinfectant at the time of collection. Collect 8 mL of blood in a yellow Vacutainer tube (no.4960, contains 1.7 mL of 0.35% SPS)

## Pus, exudate, and drainage
Using a sterile needle and syringe, aspirate material from undrained abscesses. Place the material in a sterile container.

## Miliary abscesses
Using a sterile sharp-pointed scalpel, express pus, and place it into a sterile container.

## Vaginal material
Using several sterile swabs, collect material from the vagina. Insert swabs into a sterile tube.

## Tissue
- Collect tissue aseptically from the center and edge of the lesion.
- Place specimen between moist gauze squares, add a small amount of sterile water or 0.85% NaCl to keep tissue from drying out, and send immediately to the laboratory. Keep refrigerated for no more than 8 hours at 4°C until processed.

## Bone Marrow
Aspirate approximately 3 to 5 mL of bone marrow and place it into a pediatric Isolator blood culture system.

## CSF
Collect as much spinal fluid as possible, and place it in a sterile screw cap container. Generally tube number 3 is used.

## Urine
- The urine specimen most suitable for making a diagnosis of mycoses of the urinary tract is a catherized specimen. Collect a clean-catch midstream specimen when aspiration or cystoscopy cannot be done.
- Collect early morning specimens aseptically in a sterile container. 24 hour collections have no value. Urine may be stored a 4°C for 12 to 14 hours.

## Body Fluids (pleural, synovial, and peritoneal)
Collect specimens aseptically and place in a sterile container.
Hair

- No cleaning of scalp is needed.
- Select infected areas, and with forceps, epilate at least 10 hairs.
- For hairs broken off at the scalp level, use a scalpel or a blade knife.
- Place hair between two clean glass slides or in a clean envelope labeled with the patient's data.

Nail

- Clean nail with 70% alcohol.
- For a specimen of the dorsal plate, scrape the outer surface and discard the scrapings. Then scrape the deeper portion for a specimen.
- Remove a portion of debris from under the nail with a scalpel.
- Collect the whole nail or nail clippings.
- Place all material in a sterile screw cap container.

Skin and Interspaces

- Wipe lesions and interspaces between toes with alcohol sponge or sterile water.
- Scrape the entire lesion and both sides of interspaces with a sterile scalpel.
- Place scrapings between two clean glass slides or in a clean envelope labeled with the patient's data.