

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SPECIMEN CRITERIA AND TESTING INFORMATION
12-12-17

BACTERIOLOGY						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Test Schedule & Turnaround
Enteric Stool Culture: Comprehensive (CSC) CPT Codes 87045, 87046 Campy, 87046 STEC, 87649 STX1, 87649 STX2. Reflex 87077, 87147	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	<2 hours at RT	Use this order code for community acquired bacterial gastroenteritis Unacceptable specimen: if preservative is yellow, stool is not preserved; pathogens may not be viable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	< 7 business days
	Stool-C&S preserved	To red fill line on collection tube	<24 hours at RT or 48 hrs at 4°C			
Enteric Stool Culture: E.coli O157/STEC (ECC) CPT Code 87046 87649 STX1, 87649 STX2	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	<2 hours at RT	Use this order code for STEC clearance or contact	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	3 – 5 business days
	Stool-C&S preserved	To red fill line on collection tube	<48 hours at 4°C or RT			
Enteric Stool Culture-Salmonella (SACC) CPT Codes 87045, Reflex 87077, 87147	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	<2 hours at RT	Use this order code for Salmonella clearance or contact	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	4 – 5 business days
	Stool or rectal swab – C&S preserved	Fill to red line on collection tube or place rectal swab in collection tube	<48 hours at RT or 72 hours at 4°C			

BACTERIOLOGY (CONT)

Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Test Schedule & Turnaround
Enteric Stool Culture-Shigella (SHCC) CPT Codes 87045, Reflex 87077, 87147	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	<2 hours at RT	Use this order code for Shigella clearance or contact	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	3 to 5 business days
	Stool or rectal swab – C&S preserved	Fill to red line on collection tube or place rectal swab in collection tube	<24 hours at RT or 48 hours at 4°C			
Enteric Stool Culture: Campylobacter (CC) CPT Code 87046	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	<2 hours at RT	Use this order code for Campylobacter clearance or contact	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	< 7 business days
	Stool or rectal swab – C&S preserved	Fill to red line on collection tube or place rectal swab in collection tube	<48 hours at RT or 72 hours at 4°C			
Culture for ID/ Confirm: Salmonella (SAID) CPT Codes 87077, 87147	Culture growth on sealed plates or tubes	NA	RT	Submit a completed “Culture for Identification” form with all CI requests	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	3 to 5 business days

BACTERIOLOGY (CONT)

Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Test Schedule & Turnaround
Culture for ID/ Confirm: E.coli O157/STEC (ECID) CPT Codes 87077, 87147	Culture growth on sealed plates or tubes or GN broth positive for shiga toxin	NA	RT	Submit a completed “Culture for Identification” form with all CI requests	FedEx (Category A; PI 620) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	≤ 5 business days
Culture for ID/ Confirm: Shigella (SHID) CPT Codes 87077, 87147	Culture growth on sealed plates or tubes	N/A	RT	Submit a completed “Culture for Identification” form with all CI requests	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	≤ 4 business days
Culture for ID/ Confirm: Other bacteria (BCI) CPT Code 87077	Culture growth on sealed plates or tubes	N/A	RT	Submit a completed “Culture for Identification” form with all CI requests	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ³	< 5 business days
Beta-Strep screen CPT Codes 87070	Oropharynx, nasal	Bacti-Culturette swabs; sterile cotton-tipped flexible wire swab for nasal.	Keep cold	Break ampule to allow swab to be moistened by holding fluid. Dry swabs unacceptable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	2 – 3 days
Gardnerella vaginalis CPT Codes 87070	Vaginal discharge	Bacti-Culturette swabs	Bacti- culturette swab, RT, transported within 24 hours		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	4 days

BACTERIOLOGY (CONT)

Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Test Schedule & Turnaround
Gonorrhea CPT Codes 87070	Eye, throat, rectal, genital, respiratory tract, child abuse, all sources	GC transport swab; Amies with charcoal swab.	RT, transported within 12 hours	DO NOT REFRIGERATE	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	4 days
Gonorrhea Gram Stain	Urethral discharge	On microscope slide	Must be immediately transported to lab and examined within 5 minutes		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	30 min
Gonorrhea Isolate for ID CPT Codes 87077	24 – 48 hour pure culture on chocolate agar	N/A	RT		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	3 – 5 days
Miscellaneous Culture CPT Codes 87070	Blood, wound, abscess, aspirate, eye, ear, CSF	N/A		Contact lab for appropriate specimens and transport, transport within 24 hours	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹	Varies by culture
Urine Culture CPT Codes 87086	Clean catch, midstream urine in sterile container	Urine collection cup tightly sealed	RT	This facility does not perform susceptibility testing on bacteriology isolates	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	2 – 4 days

BACTERIOLOGY--PCR						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Test Schedule & Turnaround
PCR: B. pertussis (BPPCR) CPT 87098	Nasopharyngeal Swab in 2 ml VTM		14 days at 2 - 8°C	If volume <1.0 ml, negative results qualified as “equivocal”	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	≤24 hours if specimen received by 10 A.M. (excluding weekends & holidays); STAT testing ⁴

- (1) Dedicated medical courier exemption: When shipped by a dedicated medical courier, patient specimens which are not classified as Category A (e.g. blood for Ebola testing) are not regulated under DOT’s Hazardous Materials Regulations. They may be packaged without using specialized packaging system. Place leak proof primary container in a leak proof secondary container with biohazard label (standard zip lock bag with biohazard label and outer sleeve for specimen requisition will suffice). Place the primary and secondary container in a paper bag labeled with our laboratory address and the consignee’s address. CULTURES OR CATEGORY A PATIENT SPECIMENS ARE REGULATED AND MUST BE PACKAGED ACCORDINGLY.
- (2) MOT exemption: Clinical specimens (other than Category A) may be transported in a personal vehicle to directly support a business which is not transportation; health care providers, patients, or laboratories would qualify for transporting clinical specimens as a material of trade exempt from DOT regulations. MOT does not apply to drivers employed in business of transportation (e.g. cab driver, bus driver or contract courier). Primary container must contain less than 0.5 L. Multiple primary containers (<4L total) may be transported in leak proof outer container containing sufficient absorbent material to absorb entire contents of inner packaging. CULTURES and CATEGORY A SPECIMENS (e.g., Ebola blood) cannot be transported as material of trade; they must be categorized (e.g. Category A or B) and packaged/labeled accordingly (e.g. PI 602 and 650 respectively).
- (3) Please notify laboratory if Select Agent or BT agent (e.g. Brucella, Francisella, Plague, Anthrax) is suspected
- (4) Specimens received by 10:00 am will be result same day if possible or within 24 hours (excluding weekends & holidays). **If results are required before the next test day STAT testing must be ordered verbally and in writing.**

Quality Assurance

Adherence to the specimen selection, quantity, storage and transportation criteria stated above are critical to ensuring the accuracy and usefulness of diagnostic testing results. **Test requests with information that is missing, incorrect or different from information on specimen and/or specimens submitted to the laboratory that do not meet above specified criteria could result in delayed testing and specimen rejection.** The laboratory will notify submitters upon receipt of specimens that do not meet specified testing criteria. Please contact the laboratory for concerns regarding any quality assurance issues including specimen quality and testing turnaround times.

Abbreviations

C&S	Culture and Sensitivity
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
gm	Gram
GN	Gram negative
Hrs	Hours
ml	milliliter
MOT	Material of Trade
NA	Not applicable
NP	Nasal pharyngeal
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
RT	Room temperature
VTM	Viral transport media

References

- Koneman, E. W.** 2005. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA.
- Versalovic, J., K. C. Carroll, G. Funke, J. H. Jorgensen, M. L. Landry, and D. W. Warnock (ed.).** 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.