

## AFB Clinical Specimen (Mycobacteria Smear & Culture)

Revised 6/9/17

<b>Test description</b>	Acid fast microscopy and culture of pulmonary and non-pulmonary clinical specimens.
<b>Test use</b>	To determine the presence or absence of mycobacteria in clinical specimens and, if isolated, to identify to the species or complex.
<b>Test department</b>	Mycobacteriology Laboratory Phone: (860) 920-6649, FAX: (860) 920-6721
<b>Methodology</b>	Smear by Auramine-rhodamine fluorescent stain. Culture using agar (Lowenstein-Jensen) and broth (BACTEC™ MGIT™) media. Identification methods: DNA probe and MALDI-TOF Mass Spectroscopy (MS).
<b>Availability</b>	Daily, Monday-Friday.
<b>Specimen Requirements</b>	Clinical specimens from pulmonary and extra pulmonary sites. Swab specimens are strongly discouraged. Sputum: minimum volume 3 ml (5-10 ml preferred) collected in a sterile, 50–ml conical tube. Whole blood: Collect in green top tube with heparin or yellow top tube with SPS.
<b>Collection Kit/Container</b>	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
<b>Collection Instructions</b>	Varies according to anatomic site. If needed, site specific collection instructions may be obtained by calling the Mycobacteriology laboratory.
<b>Specimen Handling &amp; Transport</b>	Store at 2-8° C. Transport as soon as possible to laboratory. Transport with an ice pack coolant (preferred) or at ambient temperature. Avoid temperature extremes. <u>Exceptions:</u> Room temperature storage and transport is required for blood, bone marrow, CSF, tissue, and gastric wash/lavage samples.
<b>Unacceptable Conditions</b>	Unlabeled specimens. Specimen that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit. Whole blood collected in tubes containing anticoagulants other than heparin or SPS (EDTA and ACD are not acceptable). Coagulated blood.
<b>Requisition Form</b>	Clinical Test Requisition (select <b>AFB Clinical Specimen</b> )
<b>Required Information</b>	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #). Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth. Specimen source/type, date collected, test(s) requested. Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
<b>Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A negative result does not rule out infection with mycobacteria.</li> <li>• Non-acid fast organisms present in culture may interfere with isolation and identification of mycobacteria.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nucleic acid amplification testing for the presence of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex DNA is automatically done on the first patient specimen submitted for Mycobacteria Smear &amp; Culture that is found to be acid fast smear positive or on request (see MTBC NAAT).</li> <li>• Anti-tuberculous drug susceptibility testing is performed on the initial <i>M. tuberculosis</i> complex isolate from each patient.</li> <li>• Cultures are incubated 6 weeks before being reported as Mycobacteria Not Found.</li> </ul>