

## AFB Clinical Specimen (Mycobacteria Smear & Culture)

Revised 12/23/2024

<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: Real Time PCR 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. Blood and bone marrow specimens are no longer accepted. Sputum: minimum volume 3 ml (5-10 ml preferred) collected in a sterile, 50–ml conical tube.
<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, contact the Mycobacteriology laboratory for further information.
<b>Specimen Handling &amp; Transport</b>	Store at 2-8 °C prior to transport. Transport as soon as possible to laboratory. Transport with an ice pack (preferred) or at room temperature (15-25 °C). Avoid temperature extremes. <u>Exceptions</u> : Room temperature storage and transport is required for CSF, tissue, and gastric wash/lavage samples.
<b>Unacceptable Conditions</b>	Unlabeled specimens. Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit. Specimens without two patient identifiers on the label.
<b>Requisition Form</b>	Clinical Test Requisition OL-9B (select <b>AFB Clinical Specimen</b> )
<b>Required Information</b>	Name and address of submitter. Two patient identifiers (ie.name, DOB, Acc.#, MRN), Town of residence (city, state, zip), specimen source/type, date collected, test(s) requested. Please ensure information 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>