



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Provincial Tuberculosis Services

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Patient Name: _____

PHN: _____

TO: PROCEDURALIST OR OTHER TREATING CLINICIAN

RE.: SPECIMEN COLLECTION

It has been determined that *mycobacterial disease including tuberculosis (TB)* is on this patient's differential diagnosis.

It is *essential* that specimens be submitted for TB Lab studies using the [Mycobacteriology / TB Requisition](#) in addition to pathology, & other indicated tests—as follows:

	Sample Type	Recommended Container* (Sterile)	Volume	Special Instructions
☐	Tissue (i.e., biopsy)	Orange-top container 	As much as possible (ideally ≥1 g, but any specimen will be processed)—in <i>sterile saline</i> (bath).	-No fixatives or preservatives. -Refrigerate (do not freeze) for transport.
☐	Body fluids (e.g., pleural, pericardial, ascitic, BAL) —CLEAR → ----- —BLOODY → (i.e., clotting risk)	Orange-top <i>or</i> screw-cap container  OR  Yellow-top (SPS) blood tube 	≥3 mL per sample.	-Refrigerate for transport.
☐	CSF	Orange-top <i>or</i> screw-cap container  OR 	≥5 mL (ideally 7-15 mL) per sample.	-Submit <i>uncentrifuged</i> CSF. -Consider serial LPs to ↑ yield. -Refrigerate for transport.
☐	Urine	Orange-top container 	≥20 mL (ideally 100 mL) per sample.	-First-morning midstream urine. -Perform x3 days to ↑ yield. -Refrigerate for transport.
☐	Stool	Orange-top container 	~5 mL per sample.	-No additives or preservatives. -Refrigerate for transport.
☐	Blood	Mycof bottle <i>or</i> yellow-top (SPS) tube  OR 	~5 mL per sample . (~3 mL for pediatrics)	-Do <i>not</i> refrigerate; transport at room temperature.
☐	Bone Marrow	Yellow-top (SPS) blood tube 	~3 mL per sample.	-Do <i>not</i> refrigerate; transport at room temperature.
☐	Gastric Washings	TB treated glass jars (buffered)**	≥1 mL (ideally 10 mL) per sample.	-Early-morning specimens. -Perform x3 days to ↑ yield. -Refrigerate for transport.
☐	Sputum	Orange-top container 	~5-10 mL per sample.	-First-morning if possible. -≥3 specimens to ↑ yield. -Refrigerate for transport.

*Each specimen should be well-sealed in its container, and submitted in a *separate* sealed biohazard bag.

**TB treated glass jars for gastric washings can be ordered at the [eLab Handbook](#) using the [Sample Container Order Form](#).

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TB Specimen Collection Instructions