

NAIL PATHOGEN PANEL

Collection Instructions

Materials Required

- 1 Chiropody scissor or blunt scalpel blade (not provided)
 - 1 Sterile virus transport media (collection tube)
 - 1 Biohazard bag
 - 2 Barcode labels
 - 1 Absorbent sheet
 - 1 Parafilm sealing sheet
- **Return supplies:**
 - UN3373 Biological substance, Category "B" stamped FedEx Clinical pak
 - Corrugated return box
 - FedEx Return label

Collection Procedures

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Wipe off any treatment creams before sampling.
2. Follow one of the sample collection methods below based upon the type of wound:
 - **Skin Scrapings**
 - a. Scrape skin from advancing edge of lesions: use a blunt scalpel blade or similar
 - b. Two (2) 5mm skin flakes are needed for analysis
 - c. Proceed to step 3
 - **Nail Samples**
 - a. Most viable fungi are usually found in the most proximal part of diseased nail; sample with chiropody scissors and include full thickness clippings of the diseased nail
 - b. Sample as far back from nail tip as possible, as this is where fungi are usually found; also sample debris from under the diseased part of the nail. In superficial infections, scrape surface of diseased nail plate with scalpel blade
 - c. Proceed to step 3
3. Place sample in collection tube.
4. Keep any samples at room temperature. Do not refrigerate as dermatophytes are inhibited at low temperatures, and humidity facilitates the growth of contaminants.
5. If using the collection swab, place the collected end of the swab into the vial and snap off the collected end along the score mark on the swab.

Safety Information:

- Always wear appropriate protective equipment when handling any clinical specimen. These include lab coats, disposable gloves, and a face mask.
- Do not touch your face when handling specimens. Periodically change gloves and disinfect surfaces with 10% bleach and 70% ethanol.
- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap after handling specimens.