

Body Fluid Specimen and Containers

Below is a chart of correct specimen containers and requirements for Body Fluid orders.

- For safety reasons, the laboratory will not accept any sample with a needle attached
- All containers must be tightly capped
- Specimens must be delivered directly to the laboratory, not through the pneumatic tube system

NOTE: 50mL conical tube is the ideal container (send as much fluid for culture as possible)

TEST	CONTAINER	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
pH	Sterile container, or conical tube	ON ICE
Glucose, Protein, LD, Bilirubin, Creatinine, Triglyceride, Cholesterol	2 – 4 mL in green heparin tube, conical tube, or sterile container	none
Cell counts / differential	3 mL lavender top tube, conical tube, or sterile container	none
Crystal analysis	Sterile container or conical tube	none
Bacterial Culture	1 – 5 mL in a sterile conical tube or anaerobic transport tube	none
AFB / Fungal Culture	Plastic sterile capped container or conical tube	none
CAPD fluid	Plastic sterile capped container or conical tube	none
Cytology studies	200 – 400 mL in plastic container tightly capped. (2 -4 sterile urine cups)	none
Extra sample to hold for possible additional orders	100 mL in plastic container tightly capped. (1 sterile urine cup)	none

Transfer of Body Fluid Specimens

Please follow the outline below and send specimens to the laboratory in the correct containers.

- Obtain appropriate containers for the laboratory tests ordered.
- Follow standard nursing procedure for the collection of the body fluid.
- Prepare and send samples to the laboratory *immediately* as deterioration can begin within one hour of collection.
- **Mix** entire specimen before aliquoting.
- Transfer the required specimen by either pouring into appropriate container or by using a syringe.
- Label **each** specimen container sample with patient information, site (left or right), type of fluid, Cerner ID/Lawson number, date, and time.
 - o **NOTE:** If using PPID, the Cerner ID/Lawson, date and time will be captured electronically
- **Tightly** close containers and send to the laboratory.