

Microbiology Rejection Criteria

The following are not acceptable for microbiological examination, and will be rejected:

- Specimens received in containers, which are not sterile (with the exception of stools).
- Unlabeled specimens.
- Specimens that have not been properly preserved or collected in proper transport media or containers.
- Specimens where outside of container or order is visibly contaminated.
- Twenty-four hour urine, stool or sputum specimens are unacceptable for routine bacterial culture.
- Specimens received in Cytology containers with additives.
- Gel swabs submitted for Rapid Streps or Gram stains.
- Stool specimens that are contaminated with urine or received in diapers or tissues.
- Sputum's contaminated with saliva or mouthwash.
- Foley catheter tips are not acceptable.
- Duplicate specimens from same source submitted on same day. Exceptions include blood cultures, CSF, tissue and sterile body fluids.