



## Wound Pathogens Specimen Collection Instructions

### Materials Provided:

- 1 sterile swab
- 1 molecular transport tube
- 1 specimen bag
- 1 UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer

### Specimen Collection

To ensure safety and validity of the sample it is important to follow the instructions provided below.

1. Remove sterile swab from collection kit being careful not to contaminate the tip.
2. Follow one of the sample collection methods below based upon the type of wound:
  - **Decubitus ulcer:** roll the sterile swab directly across the affected area until saturated. Proceed to step 3.
  - **Abscess with skin intact:**
    - a. Use sterile needle/syringe to aspirate approximately 1 mL of purulent material
    - b. Eject aspirated material into sterile collection cup
    - c. Roll sterile swab in collection cup to saturate swab. Proceed to step 3.
  - **Abscess with open skin/sinus tract:**
    - a. Wipe skin around opening with 70% ethanol or equivalent
    - b. Roll sterile swab with purulent material within abscess/sinus and ensure it is saturated. Proceed to step 3.
3. Place the swab in the molecular transport tube.
4. Swirl the swab in the solution 5 times.
5. Break the swab handle at the indentation mark and recap the tube (with the swab remaining in the tube).
6. Label the transport tube with two patient identifiers.
7. Place the transport tube into the provided specimen bag.
8. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes before placing it in the mailing envelope.
9. Place all samples collected for the day into a provided UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer. Seal the mailer and place a shipping label on the outside.