



## Nail and Paronychia Pathogens Specimen Collection Instructions

### Materials Provided:

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

### Important Information

Collect affected nail(s) and paronychia soft tissue/debris samples using standard aseptic/sterile technique currently in use at your practice. For nail clippers utilized directly from an autoclave pouch, no sterile saline rinse is required prior to nail clipping. For nail clippers which have been autoclaved, and then placed in a cold, sterile holding container, rinse clippers with sterile saline prior to clipping nails.

### Specimen Collection

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

Do NOT use an alcohol-based or other disinfectant wipe on affected area prior to sample collection. This could preclude identification of important pathogenic microbes, which might be present in the site's "bio-film."

1. Clip affected nail(s). Collect clippings on sterile gauze/paper or equivalent.
2. Cut intact nail(s) into sections approximately 3-5mm in length.
3. Transfer nail(s) to provided molecular transport tube.
4. Using an appropriately sized sterile surgical blade, scrape affected subungual/periungual debris/tissue from the site directly into the molecular transport tube (or collect on sterile gauze/paper, and then transfer to transport tube). Collection of BOTH nail material and periungual material maximizes diagnostic yield and ensures that both pathogenic fungi and pathogenic bacteria are detected.
5. Securely tighten the tube top and ensure all material is submerged in transport fluid.
6. Place a label containing two patient identifiers on the tube
7. Place tube in the specimen bag.
8. Stand the tube in the sample bag in an upright position (a small foam cup may be used for this) for at least 10-15 minutes prior to placing in shipping container/envelope.
9. Ensure all necessary clinical data, ICD10 codes, patient demographics and necessary insurance information are present on the requisition. Include a copy of the insurance card and patient demographic information to include address, phone number, etc.
10. 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.