

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Ear

### General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Collect using a single liquid eSwab and transport in sealed plastic bags. Numbers and frequency of specimen collection are dependent on clinical condition of patient. Fine wire swabs can be used for inner ear swabs where necessary; these swabs should be transported promptly to the laboratory to prevent desiccation.

**Specimen type:** Ear Swab



**Collection:** For investigation of fungal infection, scrapings of material from the ear canal are preferred although swabs can also be used.

Liquid eSwabs contain 1ml of liquid. No liquid should be discarded when collecting sample. Samples with insufficient liquid will be discarded.

**Specimen transport:** Collect specimens in appropriate CE marked leak proof containers and transport specimens in sealed plastic bags.

Collect using a single liquid eSwab and transport in sealed plastic bags.

For investigation of fungal infection, use an appropriate method to transport scrapings of material from the ear canal.

**Minimum volume of sample:** 1ml. Liquid eSwabs contain 1ml of liquid. No liquid should be discarded when collecting sample. Samples with insufficient liquid will be discarded

**Special precautions:** If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

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#### Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Not applicable

**Biological reference units:** Not applicable

**Turnaround time for provisional result (working days):** 1 day

**Turnaround time to final result (working days):** 2-3 days

#### Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** Not applicable

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible

**(Last updated September 2019)**