

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

# Eye and Canalicular Pus

## General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Collect specimens other than swabs into appropriate CE marked leak proof containers and place in sealed plastic bags  
Any available pus should be sampled as well as the lesion of interest.  
Swabs for bacterial and fungal culture should be taken with a single liquid eSwab.

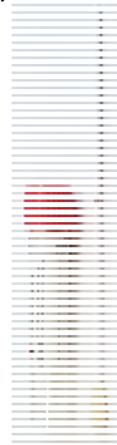
Liquid eSwabs contain 1ml of liquid. No liquid should be discarded when collecting sample. Samples with insufficient liquid will be discarded

### Specimen type:

Pus



Eye Swab



Small syringes (0.25ml) containing pus will be accepted, but the needle **MUST** be removed before submission.

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

**Minimum volume of sample:** 1ml

## 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

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### Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** Not applicable

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible, and preferably before application of local anaesthetic.

**Limitations:** Superficial swabs, although not ideal, may be all that is available. Deep-seated samples if available should be sought.

**(Last updated September 2019)**