

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Bacteriology

Tips/Intravascular cannulae

Please note the tips from Urinary catheters are not suitable for Microbiological analysis.

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): Intravascular cannulae/Tips should be collected in CE marked leak proof container



Specimen type: Line tips (eg CVP or Hickman lines),

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

Specimen transport: Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature.

Minimum volume of sample: Cut off 4 cm of the tip.

Special precautions: Disinfect the skin around the cannula entry site, remove cannula using aseptic technique, and cut off 4cm of the tip into an appropriate CE marked leak proof container using sterile scissors. Place in sealed plastic bags for transport.

Cannulae should only be sent if there is evidence of infection.

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

(Last updated December 2014)