

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Peritoneal Fluids

Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) is used as an alternative to haemodialysis for the management of patients with end-stage renal failure.

### General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Withdraw fluid aseptically from the injection port of the plastic dialysate bag with a sterile needle and syringe and transfer to a CE marked leak proof containers and place in sealed plastic bag.

**Specimen type:** In a sealed plastic bag with a request form.

Cell count = Sterile leakproof container in a sealed plastic bag containing 20mL of fluid for microscopy.  
Culture = Inoculated BD BACTEC Plus Aerobic/Anaerobic (blue/purple) BC bottles.

**Collection:** Use aseptic technique.

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

Large volumes or whole dialysate bags may require special transportation according to local protocols. They should be transported in rigid, leakproof outer containers.

**Specimen transport:** Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible

**Minimum volume of sample:** Minimum volume of 10mL.

If blood culture bottles are used they should be inoculated aseptically with 5-10 mL of dialysate

**Special precautions:** Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible.

### Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Cell count x 10<sup>6</sup> per litre

**Turnaround time:**

2 – 7 working days for culture

30 – 60 mins for cell count. Telephone the laboratory in advance for urgent microscopy

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

Bacteriology

### Clinical information

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

**(Last updated December 2020)**