

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE TO MICROBIOLOGY TESTING PROCEDURE

Dear Customer

The Microbiology department at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust is committed to providing a quality service to our users and most importantly our patients. In keeping with our on-going quality improvement initiatives, we wish to update you on an important change over the coming months to a laboratory test that we provide to you.

Routine cultures for M, C & S - new testing swab and collection protocol

The laboratory recently installed a new automated testing platform for the processing of routine bacteriology swabs. WASPLab™ offers standardised automated testing of clinical swabs.



WASPLab™ - The new automated microbiology system for plate inoculation, incubation and plate reading .

The department has been running the system for the past few months for our internal swabs submitted for M,C & S. We are now confident that the system is ready for processing all of the bacteriology swabs that are submitted for routine culture.

IMPORTANT- The new system uses the Copan ESwab™ and we will therefore be replacing the Sterilin M40 charcoal swabs currently in use. When you receive the new swabs, please can you return all unused charcoal swabs back to the Microbiology department at Leeds General Infirmary.



The new Copan ESwab™. ESwab™ is the only liquid-based multipurpose collection and transport system that maintains viability of aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious bacteria for up to 48 hours at room and refrigerator temperature

Pink Top = Wound, Nose, Eye, Throat, Vaginal, Rectum

Orange Top = Ear, Urogenital Tracts (restricted use only)

Blue Top = Nasopharynx (?whooping cough)

The following link is a useful tutorial on how to use the new ESwabs in clinical practice. Please familiarise yourself with the correct procedure before using the swabs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOjAWgSJvh4>.

We have also included a useful guide that can be displayed in clinical areas to remind users of how the ESwab™ should be taken.

Contact us

We appreciate that this is a significant change to our current methodology for routine culture swabs. We are working hard to limit any detriment to service quality and delivery whilst the new changes are implemented. If you wish to discuss the changes in more detail then please don't hesitate to contact us:

Ian Cocking

Pathology Service Manager - Microbiology LTHT

Tel: 0113 392 6777

Email: iancocking@nhs.net

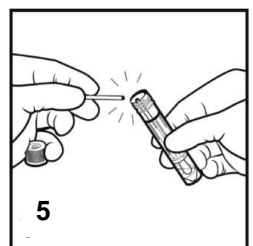
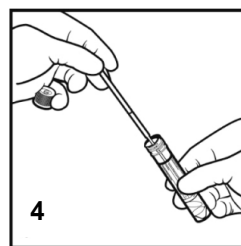
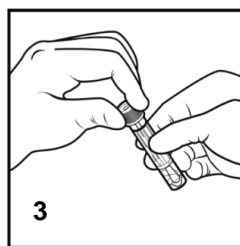
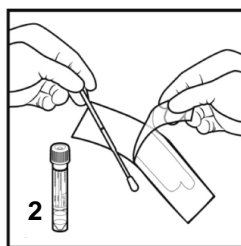
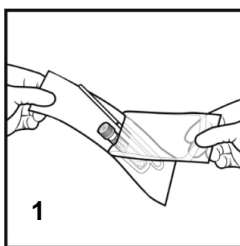
We encourage our users to come and see the new equipment in action and provide an opportunity to ask questions with regards the new systems. To arrange a visit please contact the department on the details above.

How To Use The Copan ESwab™



Proper specimen collection from the patient is extremely critical for successful isolation and identification of infectious organisms. Please follow these instructions carefully to ensure the specimen is taken appropriately

1. Open the ESwab sample collection kit and remove the tube.
2. Remove the swab applicator and collect the sample from the patient.
3. Aseptically unscrew and remove the cap from the tube.
4. Insert the swab into the tube and break the swab shaft at the breakpoint indicated by the coloured line marked on the swab shaft. Discard the broken handle part of the swab shaft into an approved medical waste disposal container.
5. Replace cap on the tube and secure tightly.
6. Write patient information on the tube label or apply patient identification label.
7. Send the sample to the test laboratory.



Sterile gloves and protective clothing and eyewear should be worn when collecting and handling microbiology specimens and care should be taken to avoid splashes and aerosols when breaking the swab stick into the tube of medium.

During sample collection when handling the swab applicator, the operator MUST NOT touch the area below the marked breakpoint indication line; that is the area from the line to the tip of the nylon flocked swab, as this will lead to contamination of the applicator shaft and the culture thus invalidating the test results.