

# GML Best TISSUE Practices: Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

Routine Aerobic Culture/  
Smear; Anaerobic Culture/  
Smear (will include aerobic);  
Mycobacteria (AFB)/Smear;  
and Fungus/Smear

Virus or Mycoplasma  
Culture (GHS testing)  
or Molecular Testing  
(by Referred Testing  
only)

To optimize microbial  
detection - Please say  
**NO** to swabs.

**NO Combinations.**  
**DON'T** combine  
Microbiology samples  
with any other testing.



**ATM**



**UTM**

Swabs don't do the job.  
Cut, don't swab.



**A routine swab is NOT an  
acceptable transport  
device for tissue.**

If no other option exists,  
submit 2 eSwabs, as this  
swab/media improves  
microbe recovery.  
Substitute UTM for virus  
or mycoplasma.



If you "fix" it, that will nix it.



Pathology tests require  
formalin fixative,  
which is **NOT** an  
acceptable  
preservative for any  
culture.

**Non-Microbiology Tests**

**1) If Pathology  
examination is  
required,** submit a  
SEPARATE tissue  
specimen in a specimen  
cup along with a  
SEPARATE Pathology  
request form.

**2) If Flow Cytometry is  
required (T and B  
cells),** send a SEPARATE  
tissue in RPMI with a  
Pathology request  
form.

**1) Sample in formalin fixative for Pathology**      **2) Sample in RPMI for Flow**



Collect tissue aseptically.

Sample from both the  
center and edge of lesion.

**Place FRESH TISSUE  
tissue in Anaerobic  
Transport Medium  
(ATM).**

**Send 2 ATM if:**  
**A) STAT Gram's stain  
required or**  
**B) if Mycobacteria (AFB)  
and Fungus detection are  
required.**

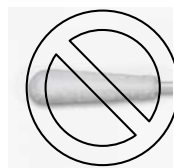


Collect tissue aseptically.

Sample from both  
the center and the  
edge of the lesion.

**Place FRESH TISSUE  
in Universal Viral  
Transport Media  
(UTM).**

**Do NOT submit  
swab(s).**



REMEMBER: IT'S BETTER TO CUT THAN SWAB; HELP US HELP YOUR PATIENT AND SEND US TISSUE FOR CULTURE. CALL 570-271-6504 WITH QUESTIONS.