

GML Best BAL Practices: Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

REMEMBER, MORE IS MORE. HELP US HELP YOUR PATIENTS BY SENDING MORE FLUID TO IMPROVE RECOVERY. CALL 570-271-6504 WITH QUESTIONS.

Quantitative Bronch Culture*; Mycobacteria (AFB)*; Fungal*; Legionella culture; Pneumocystis smear (*includes smear)

Viral PCR or Culture (HSV, CMV, RPPCR)

Mycoplasma or Ureaplasma Culture or Molecular Testing (by Referred Testing only)

Cytology



Sterile cup or tube

UTM

Sterile container or UTM

Sterile container

Collect fluid aseptically. Send fluid (≥ 20 mL), in sterile container or sterile tube to laboratory within 1 hr.

Collect fluid aseptically.

Collect fluid aseptically. Send fluid in sterile container or sterile tube to laboratory within 1 hr.

Submit a SEPARATE specimen (≥ 10 mL) in a sterile cup or tube.

QBR = 0.5 mL
AFB = 5-10 mL
Fungal = 2 mL
Legionella = 0.25 mL
Pneumocystis = 5 mL

Do NOT submit swab or needle for fluid specimens.

Aspergillus = 2 mL
Misc. testing = 1 mL/test

Do NOT submit specimens in Saccamanno fixative.

**No combinations.
DON'T combine Microbiology samples with any other testing.
If you "fix" it, that will nix it.**