

Swab Device Change for Specimen Collection

APPLIES TO ALL OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT LOCATIONS AT BOTH CAMPUSES

- Microbiology will transition from traditional wound fiber swabs (blue top swab) to a flocked swab device (ESwab) for culture collection effective 07/08/2024
- We will continue to accept specimens collected using the old swabs
- Supplies will be replenished with the new swabs - contact Distribution with any questions
- This change is required for an automated specimen processing system
- Be careful not to confuse the ESwab with NP swab/Viral Transport – they are NOT interchangeable

Old Swab



New Swab



See p. 2 for ESwab instructions

NP Swab/Viral Transport



**-Thinner tip
-Thinner shaft
-Tube has pink fluid**

Contact Microbiology for further information: 315-464-6800

1. Open the ESwab® sample collection pouch and remove the tube and swab.
2. Collect the sample from the patient.
3. Unscrew and remove the cap from ESwab® tube making sure not to spill the medium.
4. Break the swab off into the tube as follows:
 - With the other hand grasp the swab shaft at the very end with the thumb and first finger.
 - Lean the part of the shaft with the breaking point against the rim of the tube.
 - Bend the swab shaft at a 180 degrees angle to break it off at the colored ink breakpoint mark. If needed, gently rotate the swab shaft to complete the breakage and take away the upper part of 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. Send the sample to the test laboratory.

Fig. 2 Specimen Collection

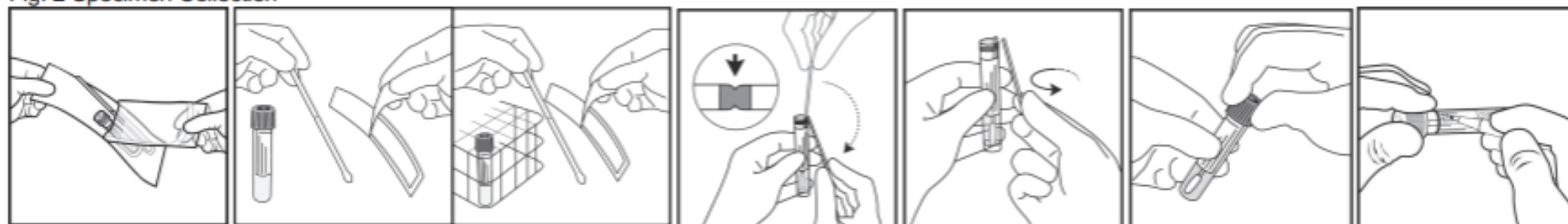
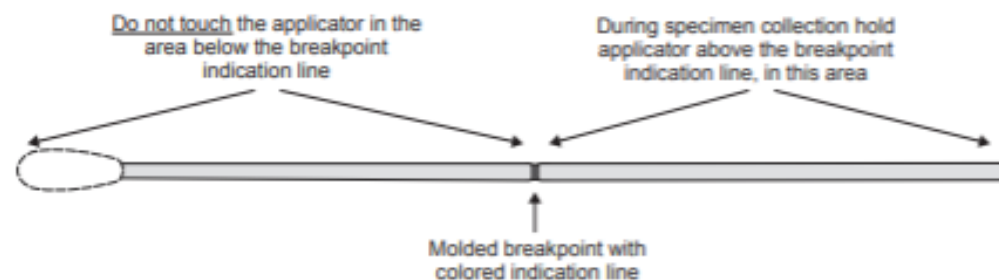


Fig 3. Collection swab showing breakpoint indication line and area for holding the applicator



NOTE: Do not use excessive force, pressure or bending when collecting swab samples from patients as this may result in accidental breakage of the swab shaft. Swab shafts often exhibit diameter changes to facilitate different sampling requirements. Swab shafts may also have a molded breakpoint designed for intentional breakage of the swab into the transport tube. In all circumstances when collecting swabs samples from patients, do not use excessive force, pressure or bending of the swab as this may result in accidental breakage of the swab shaft.

The operator must only handle the part of the swab applicator shaft above the breakpoint indication line as shown in Fig 3. After the swab sample is taken from the patient, the swab applicator shaft is broken off at the colored breakpoint indication line into the ESwab® tube of transport medium. The operator then discards the handle part of the swab into an approved medical waste disposal container. The tube's screw cap is then replaced and secured tightly.