

## Culturing Specimens

### Unacceptable Specimens (Will Be Rejected)

1. Unlabeled specimen; specimen with only one identifier; non-matching identifiers
2. Leaking or damaged containers
3. **Specimens in syringes with attached needles (even if capped)**
4. Specimens with prolonged transport times
5. Duplicate specimens (except blood and tissue): same site, same day, same test

Specimen Source	Rejection Criteria
Urine	Unpreserved > 2 hrs, cold > 24 hrs, preserved > 72 hrs, pooled specimens, foley catheter tips
Tissue	In non-sterile container, dry
Sputum	Pooled Specimens
Anaerobic Culture	<u>Specimen other than:</u> Tissue in a cup, fluid in a syringe, swab in an anaerobic transport device <u>Never acceptable:</u> Aerobic swab, sputum, bronchial, tracheal, throat, mouth/oral, nasal, N/P, urine, gastric, stones, superficial skin, GI fistula, GI tract
AFB Culture	Specimen on a swab
C. Difficile	Formed stool, duplicate orders