

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Virology Users

FROM: Virology

DATE: 22 July 2011

RE: Viral Transport Medium and Appropriate Sample Containers

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to highlight a problem faced in the virology lab with samples coming in the wrong transport medium / containers. This may affect the quality of result or may prevent testing due to leakage of sample.

The commonest mistakes are to substitute Abbott Chlamydia-Gonococcus medium or Amies/Stewarts medium (both of which are for bacterial cultures) for viral transport medium (VTM). We give below some pictures to help chose the correct medium. Unfortunately at first glance the Abbott Chlamydia-Gonococcus medium / Liquid Amies can look the same as VTM.

It would help if you would be so kind as to pass this memo on to your clinical team.

For the detection of viruses - Please use viral transport medium (VTM). The two versions of VTM available are given below. You can use either. Please check the expiry before use.

COPAN VTM:



REMEL VTM:



Containers you can use for various samples:

SAMPLE	DO USE	DO NOT USE
CSF	Universal containers with WHITE top	Sputum pots / Blood tubes
Faeces / Vomit	Universal container with BLUE top (contains a spoon)	Sputum pots
Tracheal / Nasopharyngeal Secretions / BAL	Sputum pots / Universal container with white top / Conical bottom tubes with white top	DO NOT send us the entire trap and tubing

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MEMORANDUM

THESE ARE NOT VIROLOGY TRANSPORT MEDIA

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IMAGE	WHAT THEY ARE
 <p>Transport Tube with urine fill window</p>	<p>Dual Chlamydia/Gonorrhoeae (CT/NG) NAAT test. (ORANGE TOP WITH CLEAR MEDIUM)</p>
	<p>AMIES PRESERVATION MEDIUM FOR BACTERIOLOGY (PINK TOP WITH CLEAR MEDIUM)</p>
	<p>STEWART'S MEDIUM / AMIES SWAB FOR BACTERIAL CULTURE</p>
	<p>AMIES CHARCOAL SWAB</p>
	<p>DRY SWAB</p>