

## **WOUND PANEL SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

To ensure the safety and validity of a sample, it is essential to follow these instructions.

**DO NOT DISINFECT THE WOUND BEFORE SAMPLING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

1. Wash hands, Don gloves, remove soiled dressing (as appropriate) and dispose of in biohazard and follow one of the sample collection methods below based upon the type of wound:
  - a. Decubitus ulcer and other open wounds:
    - i. Roll the swab directly across the affected area until saturated.
    - ii. Proceed to step 2.
  - b. Abscess with intact skin:
    - i. Disinfect the area using a sterile needle/syringe, and aspirate purulent material from the abscess.
    - ii. Transfer 0.3-0.5 mL of purulent material directly into the molecular transport tube.
    - iii. Proceed to step 5.
  - c. Abscess with open skin/sinus tract:
    - i. Roll sterile swab within abscess/sinus with purulent material and ensure the swab is fully saturated.
    - ii. Proceed to step 2.
  - d. Joint Fluid:
    - i. Disinfect the area using a sterile needle/syringe, and aspirate joint fluid.
    - ii. Eject 0.3-0.5 mL of joint fluid directly into the molecular transport tube.
    - iii. Proceed to step 5.
  - e. Cellulitis/Skin Rashes:
    - i. Preferred/Optional: Gently scrape the affected area with a sterile scalpel blade (not provided).
    - ii. Vigorously swab the scraped/affected area with the swab.
    - iii. Using the same swab, collect any material on the scalpel blade.
    - iv. Proceed to step 2.
2. Place the swab in the molecular transport tube.
3. Swirl the swab in the solution five times.
4. Break the swab handle at the indentation mark and recap the tube, retaining the swab in the tube.
5. Snap off the excess handle and securely tighten the top of the transport tube.
6. Keep the tube upright for 10 - 15 minutes.
7. Redress the wound and perform hand hygiene.
8. Properly label the specimen with the Patient's Full Name, and DOB, ( +additional unique identifier if available)
9. Complete the lab requisition or electronic document, including wound site and time the specimen was collected
10. Send the specimen to the PCL lab the same day. If specimens can be refrigerated, due so after specimen collection. Wound Samples will be processed by PCL within a 48-hour timeframe.



**Note:** All soft tissue wound sites are considered contaminated, so a positive test result does not automatically indicate an infection. Diagnosis must be clinically correlated based on wound characteristics, erythema, edema, pain, heat, increased exudate & odor.

Proper technique for obtaining a specimen is crucial to avoid false negative or positive results. Obtain a sample before initiation of antibiotics or antimicrobials if possible. Lidocaine or other topical agents may cause PCR inhibition. Interpret results and Antibiotic Resistance Genes based on clinical history and treatments.

**To request additional supplies or questions or a courier pickup, contact Customer Support at**

**855-482-3598.**