



Multiple specimens submitted for culture - Charging

As a general rule, each specimen is set up and allocated a separate panel (which generates a separate bill for each specimen).

This includes:

- Swab and fluid from same site or two fluids from same site (EXCEPT that EDTA fluid would not be set up IF another specimen is received from that site). EDTA fluid is not recommended for culture as EDTA may have an inhibitory effect on some microorganisms.
- Multiple swabs from the same site with no distinguishing labels. In which case we will arbitrarily label them "1, 2, 3" etc. and retain such labelling in the panel and report (three panels would be billed in this example).
- Any number of swabs, tissues or fluids from a necropsy case.

EXCEPTIONS to the "number of specimens = number of panels" rule include:

- Notation on the request form specifically directing:
 - Which specimen to use
 - To "choose best specimen". In which case the order of preference (in descending order) is usually tissue, fluid, swab unless more than 48 hours since specimens collected (in which case swab is usually best).
 - To pool specimens (though this is not a recommended practice).
- Swab of urine submitted as well as urine in a pot, in which case both are set up but only one panel is reported and billed.
- EDTA fluid from a site for which swab or plain fluid has also been submitted. In which case the other specimen is set up (and billed) but not the EDTA fluid.
- Multiple BAL/TTW samples with no distinguishing labels, in which case we will choose one non-EDTA specimen with the most surfactant/mucus, arbitrarily label it "1" and use it to set up culture (and bill for one panel).
- If two specimens from the same site are submitted and bacterial culture and fungal culture (or mycobacterial culture) are requested, we will arbitrarily label the specimens 1 and 2 and use only one for bacterial culture and one for fungal culture (or mycobacterial culture).