



QML Pathology

Specimen Collection Guide

Blood Collection Tubes

Test	Tube
ACTH	EDTA ●
Aluminium	Trace element ●
Antenatal Screen (Hepatitis B & C, rubella, syphilis, HIV)	SST ●
Auto Antibodies (including antisperm antibodies)	SST ●
Biochemistry - Used for a wide variety of tests	SST ●
Blood alcohol (non legal)	2 x Fluoride oxalate ● (SST also accepted) ●
Blood glucose (if a delay in cell separation is unavoidable)	Fluoride oxalate ● SST ●
Blood group and antibodies	EDTA Pink ●
Chromosome blood	Lithium heparin ● EDTA Pink ●
Coagulation studies: Prothrombin time, INR, APTT, D-Dimer, Fibrinogen	Sodium citrate ● EDTA ● Coag Questionnaire
Coagulation studies: Thrombophilia tests, Factor assays	2 x Sodium citrate ● Coag Questionnaire
Crossmatch (phone Brisbane Crossmatches on 07 3146 5122)	2 x EDTA Pink ● EDTA ●
Drug levels-Dilantin, Valproate (Some drug levels use SST, e.g., Lithium level)	Plain ● (plastic Lithium heparin acceptable)
E/LFT (including urea, glucose, electrolytes, liver function tests, cholesterol, triglycerides (lipids))	SST ●
Endocrinology tests (Thyroid function tests, FSH, LH, etc.)	SST ●
ESR	EDTA ● OR for branches only: ESR ●
Full blood count (including haemoglobin, white cell count, platelet count)	EDTA ●
Genetics (some)	EDTA Pink ●
Group & hold plasma (refer to Crossmatch)	2 x EDTA Pink ● EDTA ●
Haematology - Used for a wide variety of tests	EDTA ●
HbA1c	EDTA ●
Hb EPP	EDTA ●
Heavy metals screen (Lead, Mercury, Cadmium & Arsenic)	4 x EDTA ● or Urine
Hepatitis serology	SST ●
HLA-B27 testing	EDTA Pink ● (dedicated specimen)
HLA tissue typing (Must call Royal Brisbane to book before collection on 07 3646 0048)	2 x ACD ● SST ●
Iron studies/B12	SST ●
Lactate plasma (No stasis to be used; do not use tourniquet)	Fluoride oxalate ●
Lead - Blood	EDTA ●
Leukaemia marker studies (If urgent OR weekend call 07 3121 4989)	ACD ● EDTA ● (confirm number of tubes when booking)
NIPT (Generation & Generation Plus)	Streck Tube (in kit from referred samples)
T & B Cell Gene Rearrangement Study	EDTA Pink ● OR Bone Marrow, OR Lymph Node, OR Tumour
Lymphocyte subsets	ACD ● EDTA ●
Pregnancy tests	SST ●
Red cell folate	EDTA ● SST ●
Selenium - Blood	Lithium heparin ● OR EDTA ●
Selenium - Serum	Trace element ●
Tumour markers (must specify test)	SST ●
Vitamin D (25-Hydroxy Vitamin D3, Serum)	SST ●
Zinc - Serum	Trace element ●

NOTE: Gently invert all tubes 8-10 times to ensure blood is mixed with the tube additive. Only tubes with serum separator are to be centrifuged. Clot standing upright for 30 minutes before centrifuging.

Specimen Containers (Bottles may vary from image and are not shown to scale)

Bottle	Example
Urine (MCS, Urine Cytology, Urine Alb/Creat ratio) Transport to the laboratory immediately. Refrigerate until transport is available.	
Other body fluids Sputums	
Seminal fluid container Patient must contact QML Pathology before collection. Sample must reach the laboratory within 2 hours at room temperature.	
Histology specimen container Routine histology tissue and biopsy specimens are placed into 10% formalin for fixation and submitted to the laboratory for paraffin processing. Store and transport at room temperature.	
Faeces container Transportation depends on the test required. Please refer to the Test Reference Manual on qml.com.au for detailed test collection requirements. Liquid stools should be examined promptly - please contact laboratory to arrange pick up. Formed and semi-formed stools should be received by the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.	
Faecal Occult Blood collection tube Patients must inoculate three FOB tubes. Samples must be collected on three different days. Store at room temperature and transport to laboratory as soon as possible.	
Synovial fluid collection kit 1. Crystals, gram stain and culture. Several mL in a sterile screw top (urine) container. 2. Cell count and differential. 1-2 mL in lithium heparin (green top) tube to prevent specimen clotting. 3. Protein, albumin and glucose. 1-2 mL in a plain tube no gel. Store and transport at room temperature.	
C.S.F. Tubes Sample must be placed in correct order of aspiration as indicated on tube (1, 2, 3). 1 – beginning, 2 – middle, 3 – end. Transport to the Laboratory immediately. Refrigerate until transport is available.	
Skin scrapings containers - Fungal Cultures Superficial mycoses may infect skin, hair and nails. Skin scrapings from the active edge of the lesion and scrapings from nails, together with clippings of nails and hair, may be placed in a sterile container. The paper envelope may also be used for collecting skin scrapings. If the lesion is exuding material and may be painful to scrape, a swab may be collected as an alternative. Use a dry swab previously moistened with saline to swab the lesion. Place the swab in a container without transport medium. Store and transport at room temperature. If bacteria is suspected also collect a Bacteriology transport swab (containing STM) in addition.	
Blood culture bottles Store and transport at room temperature - Do not refrigerate. ADULTS: Collect blood in set of 2 (aerobic and anaerobic) culture bottles. 8-10mL of blood required in each bottle. CHILDREN: Collect in paediatric blood culture bottle. 1-3mL of blood required. If difficulty is experienced in obtaining blood from an adult, the paediatric blood culture bottle will suffice.	
Urine collection bottles <ul style="list-style-type: none">Used for timed urine collections. Patient instructions can be found on the bottleThe bottle should be refrigerated between collectionsDepending on test requested use either plain or acid preservative bottle	
Urine drug collection kit Refrigerate sample after collection. Chain of Custody forms detail the procedure and are available on request from QML Pathology.	

Swabs

Swabs

Example

Bacteriology transport swab (Blue Top)

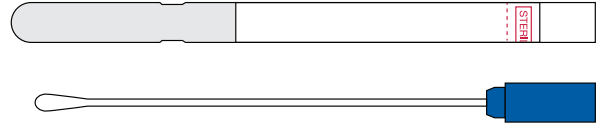
Contains Stuart Transport Media (STM)

May be left overnight at room temperature except where anaerobic infection is suspected.

Uses:

- Bacterial culture from any site
- To isolate bacteria, fastidious organism and yeasts
- For screening MRSA, VRE, Multi-resistant gram negative bacteria (MRGN)

Note: **Do not use for any molecular testing** e.g. PCR for *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Gonorrhoea*, *HSV/VZV* etc.



Viral culture transport swab (Green Top) or Dry swab (Orange top)

Contains viral transport media (VTM)

Store at room temperature before and after collection.

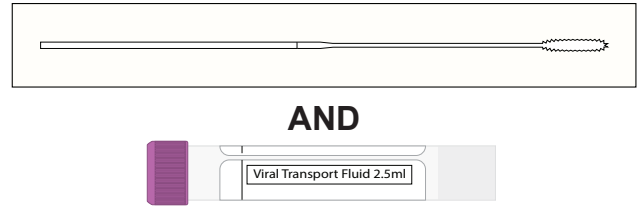
Uses: PCR for HSV, VZV, Enteroviruses, Syphilis from chancre/lesion, atypical bacteria (incl *Bordetella pertussis*/*Mycoplasma pneumoniae*).



Flocked Nasopharyngeal PL/ Pouch 100 and Medium Viral Transport Fluid VTM 2.5mL

Store at room temperature before and after collection.

Uses: PCR for HSV, VZV, Enteroviruses, Syphilis from chancre/lesion, atypical bacteria (incl *Bordetella pertussis*/*Mycoplasma pneumoniae*), Respiratory viruses.



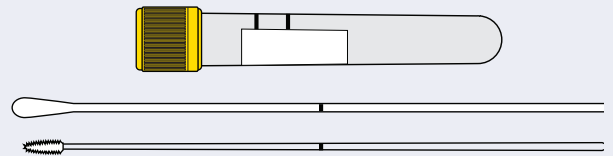
COBAS PCR media dual swab

(or urine sample - bladder held 1-2hrs, first 20-30mL)

Store at room temperature before and after collection.

Uses: Molecular testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* PCR (genital, rectal, throat and eye).

Please note: Swab selection will vary depending on the site from which sample is to be collected. Write collection site on label on tube.

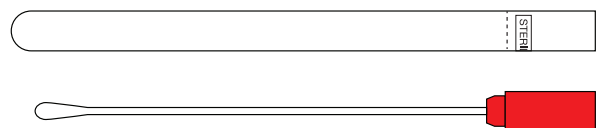


Cervical Screening Self Collect Kit

Note: This swab is only used in the Self Collect Kit (700735).

Self-collect - HPV Specimen Collection. Used in conjunction with a Thin Prep vial and the Cervical Screening Self-Collect Guide available at qml.com.au.

A sample taken without associated Thin Prep swirling is a test referred to an external laboratory. Private billing for self collect specimens is not currently available.



Cervical Screening

Item	Example
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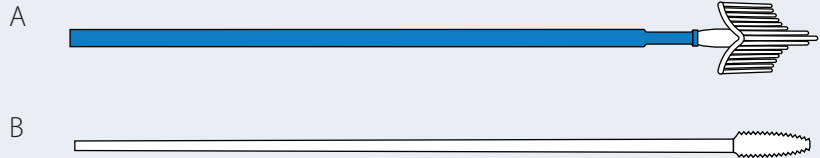
ThinPrep™

Vigorously rinse the Cervical Brush in ThinPrep™ collection vial, including pressing bristles of Cervical Brush against inside of vial. Do NOT leave head of brush inside vial. Label the vial with patient name, date of birth and anatomical site of sample. There is no need to send an accompanying glass slide.



Single-use Cervical Screening Test

Cervical Brush (A)
Endocervical Sampler (B)

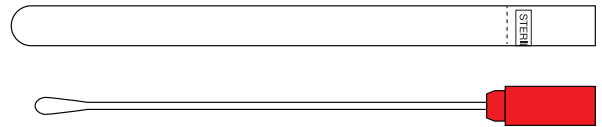


Single-use Cervical Screening Test

For self-collect the following materials are required, either:

- A: Cervical Screening Self collect kit (700735), or
- B: • QML Pathology request form with SELF COLLECT clearly indicated on the form, and
 - Plastic flocked red top swab (684738), and
 - Thin Prep vial, and
 - Cervical Screening Self-Collect Guide available in the Test Reference Manual at qml.com.au, under the test CVX.

No Private billing option is currently available.

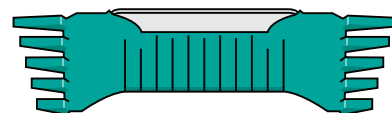


Skin Devices

Item	Example
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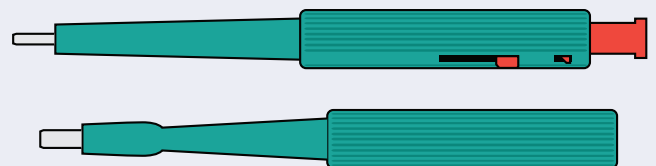
BIOPBLADE™

The sterile, single-use BIOPBLADE™ is a flexible scalpel used for cutaneous surgery, including: shave biopsy, saucerisation of flat lesions and levelling of pedunculated lesions. The unique design of the BIOPBLADE™ incorporates a comfortable and protective 'Fingerguard' in addition to the flexible super sharp blade. This flexibility allows the blade to be positioned at the correct angle for the intended procedure.



Skin punch biopsy devices

Punch Biopsy with internal plunger.
Available in 2, 3 and 4 mm.
Punch Biopsy without internal plunger.
Available in 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 mm.



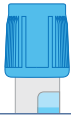
For more detailed information please visit qml.com.au/clinicians/ or contact the QML Pathology Duty Scientist (07) 3121 4900.

Order of Draw - Vacutainer & Syringe Method

Adult tubes

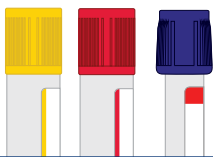


BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLES
Aerobic (Green) + Anaerobic (Orange)
 Collect 8-10mL in each bottle



SODIUM CITRATE 2.7mL (Blue)
 Tube **MUST** be filled to indicated level

NOTE: Citrate tubes should not be the first tube drawn for special coagulation testing (e.g., Factor VIII and Heparin Therapy) or when using winged (butterfly) method. Use a discard (citrate) tube first.



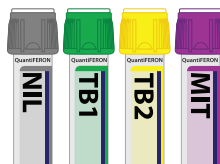
SST 8.5mL OR SST 3.5mL (Yellow)
 Contains Clot Activator & Serum Separator
PLAIN 10mL (Red)
TRACE ELEMENT 6mL (Navy)
 Contains Clot Activator



LITHIUM HEPARIN (Green)
9mL OR 6mL



STRECK - 10mL K3EDTA
 (NIPT)



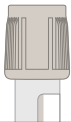
QUANTIFERON KIT (4 tubes) in order:
QUANTIFERON NIL (Grey)
QUANTIFERON TB1 (Green)
QUANTIFERON TB2 (Yellow)
QUANTIFERON MITOGEN (Purple)



EDTA 6mL (Pink)
EDTA 4mL (Lavender)
EDTA 2mL (Translucent Lavender)



ESR (Black rubber stopper)



FLUORIDE OXALATE 4mL (Grey)

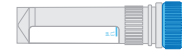


ACD (ACID CITRATE DEXTROSE) 9mL
 (Bright yellow)

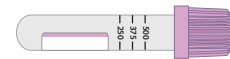
Paediatric tubes



AEROBIC PAEDIATRIC (Yellow) 1 - 3mL



SODIUM CITRATE (Blue) collect 1.3mL
 Tube **MUST** be filled to indicated level
 (Not to be used on heel prick)



EDTA (Lavender) 0.25 - 0.5mL



LITHIUM HEPARIN (Green) 0.2 - 0.4mL



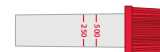
FLUORIDE OXALATE (Grey)) 0.2 - 0.6mL



SST (Yellow) 0.2 - 0.4 mL



SST (Amber tube) 0.2 - 0.6 mL



PLAIN No additive (Red) 0.2 - 0.5mL

- ✓ All tubes **MUST** be sighted by patient to confirm patient identity.
- ✓ Request form "Person Drawing Blood" statement **MUST** be signed.
- ✓ Gently invert all tubes 8-10 times.
- ✗ Blood bank samples will be rejected if:
 - Tube and statement is not signed
 - Signature on tube and statement do not match