

SURGICAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE

Pathology & Microbiology Submission Decision Tree

PATHWAY	ORDERS PRESENT	SPECIMEN CONTAINER(S)	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS
Pathway 1 - Pathology Only	Pathology Only	Formalin Container	Place the entire specimen in a Formalin Container. Send to Pathology.
Pathway 2 - Pathology + Microbiology (Specimen Can Be Split)	Pathology + Microbiology	Formalin Container (Pathology Portion) Black Anaerobic Collection Container (Microbiology Portion)	Divide the specimen into two portions. Place one portion in Formalin for Pathology and one portion in a Black Anaerobic Collection Container for Microbiology. Send both specimens to the laboratory.
Pathway 3 - Pathology + Microbiology (Specimen Cannot Be Split)	Pathology + Microbiology	Sterile Container	Place specimen in a Sterile Container. Do NOT place in formalin. Anaerobic culture recovery may be impacted when specimens cannot be divided for separate pathology and microbiology processing. Submit specimen to Altru Hospital Lab immediately using STAT courier if appropriate.
Pathway 4 - Microbiology Only	Microbiology Only	Black Anaerobic Collection Container	Place specimen in a Black Anaerobic Collection Container. Send to Microbiology.

* Respiratory specimens should follow the previous process.

IMPORTANT eSWAB REMINDER

Do NOT place tissue, bone, or fluid specimens into an eSwab collection container.
eSwabs are not specimen transport containers for tissue, bone, or sterile body fluids.
eSwabs should be used only for swab collections.
Use the swab to collect material directly from the patient.
Do not place tissue, bone, or fluid into the eSwab tube and use the swab as a lid.

Improper use of an eSwab container may result in specimen rejection and may negatively impact culture recovery and testing results.