

1. For routine cultures peel open the swab pack.
2. Wear protective gloves whenever you may come into contact with biohazardous materials.
3. Instruct the patient to tilt his head back and open his mouth.
4. Use the tongue depressor to hold the tongue on the floor of the mouth.
5. Use a flashlight to help locate areas of inflammation, purulence or ulceration.
6. Remove the swabs from the pack.
7. With the tongue still depressed, swab the affected area with the swabs
8. Insert the swabs into the transport tube. Make sure the swabs have come into contact with the transport medium-soaked sponge reservoir at the bottom of the transport tube.
9. Label the transport tube, not the protective wrapper, with the patient's name, time and date of collection and source. Place the Culture Swab in a double pocket specimen bag.
10. Take the specimen and completed Requisition form to the laboratory for processing.
11. The specimen should be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.