

How to Collect a Wound Culture

Culture wound *prior* to initiation of antibiotics if signs or symptoms of infection are present

Wound Care

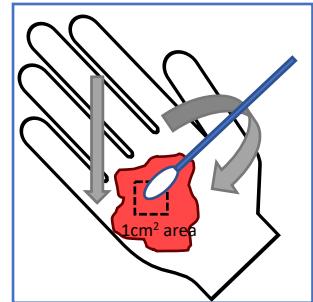
- _____ 1. Confirm resident identity and explain the procedure.
- _____ 2. Prepare clean work surface by cleaning the surface with disinfectant wipe following manufacturer's guidelines. Put down surface barrier (e.g. Chux pad).
- _____ 3. Ensure all necessary supplies are assembled and arranged for cleaning the wound, obtaining a specimen, and redressing the wound. Place supplies on surface barrier in aseptic manner.
- _____ 4. Perform hand hygiene, and don clean gloves. Consider use of surgical mask for all wound care.
- _____ 5. Remove wound dressing. Dispose of gloves and dressing. Perform hand hygiene.
- _____ 6. Don clean gloves. Rinse wound with normal saline. Gently wipe excess saline with sterile gauze pad.
- _____ 7. Remove soiled gloves, perform hand hygiene, and don clean gloves.

Wound Culture (using aseptic non-touch technique)

- _____ 8. Aseptically pour a small amount of normal saline over the cotton swab to moisten it.
- _____ 9. Levine Technique recommended for culture collection: Identify 1cm² of clean wound tissue. Rotate applicator for 5 seconds while applying enough pressure to produce fluid from the wound tissue.

***Do not take specimen from exudate, eschar, or necrotic material.**

***Do not let the sterile swab touch gloves or other objects.**
- _____ 10. Insert swab immediately into sterile container. Avoid contaminating specimen.



Wound Dressing

- _____ 11. Doff gloves. Perform hand hygiene, put on clean or sterile gloves that are appropriate for the technique required to complete the dressing change.
- _____ 12. Perform dressing change using aseptic non-touch technique.
- _____ 13. Dispose of materials as appropriate. Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene. Don clean gloves.

Specimen Handling

- _____ 14. Label specimen collection tube with patient name, date of birth, source, and date of collection.
- _____ 15. Place specimen in biohazard transport bag. Clean work surface. Perform hand hygiene.
- _____ 16. Refrigerate specimens until ready for packaging and shipping.

Reference: Baranoski, S., & Ayello E. A. (2015). *Wound Care Essentials: Practice Principles* (4th ed.). Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Stotts, N. A. (2016). Wound infection: diagnosis and management. In R. Bryant, & D. Nix (Eds.), *Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts* (pp.283—294). Elsevier Mosby.