

How to Collect an Ostomy Culture

Ostomy Skin Prep

- ___ 1. Perform hand hygiene before entering room. Confirm resident identity and explain the procedure.
- ___ 2. Prepare clean work surface by cleaning surface with disinfectant wipe following manufacturer's guidelines, including adherence to contact time. Put down surface barrier (e.g., Chux pad).
- ___ 3. Ensure all necessary supplies are assembled and arranged for cleaning the site, obtaining a culture, and redressing. Place supplies on surface barrier in aseptic manner.
- ___ 4. Perform hand hygiene. Don gown, surgical mask, and gloves.
- ___ 5. Leave any catheters and/or tubes in place and remove any skin dressings. Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- ___ 6. Don clean gloves. Rinse skin around ostomy site with normal saline and gently pat dry with sterile gauze.

Ostomy Culture (using aseptic non-touch technique)

- ___ 7. For this skin only culture, spin the end of the sterile applicator around the ostomy site, 3-5 times around the site, being careful not to make contact with the catheter or tube surface.

Apply New Ostomy Dressing (if applicable)

- ___ 8. Doff gloves. Perform hand hygiene, and don clean gloves that are appropriate for the technique required to complete any new dressing application.
- ___ 9. Apply new dressing.
- ___ 10. Dispose of materials, including any unused gauze. Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Specimen Handling

- ___ 11. Don clean gloves. Label specimen collection tube with patient name, date of birth, source, and date of collection.
- ___ 12. Place specimen in biohazard transport bag.
- ___ 14. Clean work surface. Perform hand hygiene.
- ___ 15. Refrigerate specimens until ready for packaging and shipping.