

## **Guidance for Carbapenem-resistant Organism (CRO) Colonization Specimen (Rectal Source) Collection, Packaging, and Shipping**

### **Purpose**

The Cepheid® GeneXpert® Carba-R test is an FDA-approved commercial test for the molecular detection of carbapenem resistant organisms (CROs) in human rectal swab specimens and has a rapid turnaround time for results. Proper collection and specimen handling are critical for obtaining accurate results.

### **Sample Collection**

CRO colonization kit, provided by Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory (MDH PHL).

#### **Contents of the Kit:**

- Copan Dual Swab (Copan Transystem™ Sterile transport system; Copan Diagnostics, Murrieta, CA)
- One SaftPak (STP-710) white Tyvek® bag
- One SaftPak (STP-711) clear bag
- One absorbent pad
- Shipping container
- AR Lab Network (ARLN) Submission form (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html#arforms>)
- Guidance for Carbapenem-resistant Organism (CRO) Colonization Specimen (Rectal source) Collection, Packaging, and Shipping (this document)

### **Procedure for Collecting the Swab**

1. Before initiating collection, hand hygiene should be performed and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be donned as indicated by the patient's clinical care team (e.g. gloves, gown, mask).

2. Open the outer packaging of Copan Transystem™ Sterile Transport Swab on the end that says “PEEL HERE” (the opposite end from the cotton tips).



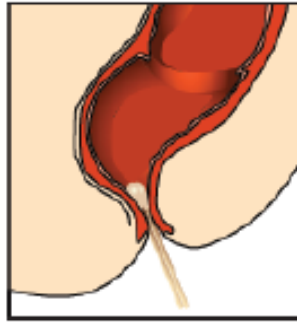
3. Carefully remove the tube from the plastic packaging and label the tube (see label instructions below).
  - a. While labeling, leave the dual swab enclosed in the plastic packaging to prevent contamination



4. Pull the dual swab from the plastic packaging, being careful not to touch the cotton tips.



5. The dual swab may be moistened with **sterile** saline or transport medium only.
  - a. Do **NOT** use tap water or lubricating gel.
6. Carefully insert **both** swab tips approximately 1 cm beyond the anal sphincter and gently rotate against the walls of the rectum 3 times. See figure (next page) for proper swab depth.



7. Confirm swab is not overloaded or underloaded. See figures below for reference.

**Acceptable Specimens**



**Unacceptable Specimens**



8. Remove cap from tube by twisting.



9. Insert  **dual**  swab into tube and firmly close cap. Seal with Parafilm if available.



10. Complete an AR Lab Network submission form for each specimen and include with shipment.
11. Package and ship immediately to MDH-PHL, Central Region AR Lab Network laboratory. Swabs in the transport tube must be shipped at 15–28 °C (room temperature) and tested within five (5) days of collection.

### **Labeling**

Specimens must be clearly labeled with:

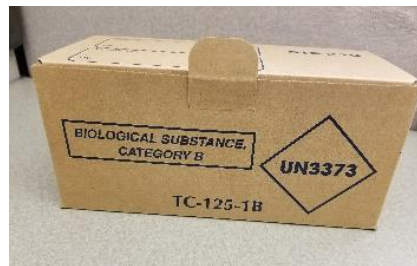
1. A minimum of 2 acceptable patient identifiers:
  - a. Patient's first and last name
  - b. Date of birth
  - c. Medical record number
  - d. Sample ID number
2. Date of specimen collection
3. Site of collection (e.g. rectal)

### **Shipping**

1. Place the swabs (in their transport tubes) in the clear Saf-T-Pak bag (STP-711) along with the absorbent pads provided in the kit . Up to 10 swabs can be placed into a single bag provided they fit. See photo.
2. Fold tape closure over so that the white paper liner is visible and remove the liner to expose adhesive.



3. Gently lay tape over the bag opening and smooth with fingers to seal tightly.
4. Place clear Saf-T-Pak bag (STP-711) sealed with its contents into white Saf-T-Pak envelope (STP-710). See photo.
5. Fold tape closure over so that the white paper liner is visible and remove the liner to expose adhesive.
6. Gently lay sticky tape over the bag opening and smooth with fingers to seal tightly.
7. Place white Saf-T-Pak (STP-710) envelope(s), sealed with its contents into cardboard shipping container (STP-210) (add additional envelopes as needed or as size of the cardboard shipping container can hold) folded so that "Biological Substance, Category B" is outwardly showing. See photo.



8. Place filled-out paperwork inside box, close flap, seal with tape, and continue onto Fed-Ex shipping instructions on next page. Facilities using local couriers can send to MDH-PHL using your standard process.

**Questions? Contact:**

Paula Snippes Vagnone, ARLN Central Region Laboratory Coordinator

Phone: 651-201-5581

Email: [arlnmn@state.mn.us](mailto:arlnmn@state.mn.us)

Updated 8/19/2022