

**Blanchard Valley Health System Laboratory Services**

Blanchard Valley Hospital 1900 South Main Street Findlay, OH 45840  
Bluffton Community Hospital 139 Garau Street, Bluffton, OH 45817  
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**Sterile Body Fluid Packet Collection Protocol (LTR27584)**

Last Approved By: Hughes, Douglas (2/8/2018 5:49:50 AM)

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**Attention: Printed copies MAY NOT be the most current information. Please consult the Lab QMS for the current version.**

**Sterile Body Fluid Packet  
Collection Protocol**

**POSTED-LIS**

The Laboratory will provide offices, emergency department, nursing service areas with fluid collection packets to aid in the proper collection and transport of body fluids for laboratory testing. When a sterile body fluid is submitted for culture, it is necessary to concentrate the specimen by centrifugation to increase the probability of isolation of low organism numbers as much as possible. Collection of fluid specimens on swabs is discouraged.

**Sterile (Serous, Synovial, Other) Body Fluid Packet** (for abdominal fluids, chest fluids, joint fluids etc.)

1. Plastic Biohazard bag for transport of the specimen
2. Betadine ampule
3. 5ml EDTA (Purple Top) Vacutainer tube.....for cell count and/or fluid crystals
4. (2) 7 ml plain Red Top tubes.....one for chemistry/one for culture and gram stain
5. Appropriate Instruction label.

**Collection Procedure:**

- ✓ These fluids are collected by the physician through aseptic aspiration into sterile syringes
- ✓ Clean the tops of each tube in the packet with the Betadine and allow them to dry.
- ✓ Transfer fluid from the syringe via needle into appropriate tubes, in equal amounts, using sterile technique\*.
- ✓ Transfer to the laboratory **as soon as possible** with the appropriate orders.
- ✓ **DO NOT refrigerate** these specimen prior to or during transport.
- ✓ **DO NOT send syringes with needles.**

\* Fill all tubes if possible. \*\* If only a small amount of fluid is obtained, see below for test requirements and prioritize the use of tubes based on the tests ordered or the doctor's determination of the most important tests.

- (1) EDTA (Purple Top) tube: Cell count (order by source- BFSYN, BFPLU, BFPER, etc.) and/or fluid crystals (order as CRYST)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Plain Red Top tube: Fluid Culture and Gram Stain (order FLDC with source; and GMSTB)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Plain Red Top tube: Chemistry testing (i.e. FLPAN = Fluid Panel includes FLTP= Fluid Total Protein, FLGLU= Fluid Glucose, FLLDH= Fluid LDH, FLGS= Fluid Specific Gravity, FLPH= Fluid pH)
- ✓ Mix all tubes well,
  - ✓ Properly label all tubes (to include the following)
    1. Patient's full name, proper name (No nicknames or abbreviations)
    2. Patient's date of birth and/or social security number
    3. Time of collection
    4. Date of collection
    5. Test(s) to be performed on the specimen
    6. Initials of the person collecting the specimen

**NOTE:** This information is necessary for the timely and accurate processing of requests. It is respectfully requested that this information be accurate, complete and legible.

Should you have any questions for Blanchard Valley Hospital Out Patient Laboratory, please call 419-423-5328, or questions for Bluffton Hospital Out Patient Laboratory, please call 419-369-2314.