



PROCEDURE:	FUNGAL SPECIMEN
-------------------	------------------------

Medical supplies

- Scalpel (for skin), nail clippers or small scissors (for nails), tweezers (for hair);
- Filter paper or envelope;
- Sterile container or Petrie dish;
- Biohazard bag;
- 70% alcohol or sterile water and gauze;
- Stability:
 - The viability of certain specimens degrades with time therefore, it is important to bring the sample to the laboratory as soon as possible;
 - Fungal specimens should be kept at temperatures between 15 – 30 °C.

Collection

- 1) Skin specimens;
 - Wear protective gloves;
 - Clean the area with alcohol or sterile water;
 - Let air dry;
 - Scrape the infected area using the scalpel;
 - Place skin scrapping onto the filter paper or into an envelope;
- 2) Nail clippings;
 - Wear protective gloves;
 - Clean the area with alcohol or sterile water;
 - Let air dry;
 - Using the nail clipper, cut off a portion of the nail. Then, using the scalpel, scrape debris found under the nail;
 - Place the nail and scrapping onto the filter paper or into an envelope;
- 3) Hair specimen;
 - Wear protective gloves;
 - It is not necessary to wash the scalp;
 - Remove the broken hair in the infected region;
 - Using the tweezers, pull out at least 10 hairs. If the scalp is shaven, use the scalpel to collect some skin scrappings;
 - Place the hair and scrapping onto the filter paper or into an envelope;
- 4) Fold the filter paper or close the envelope;
- 5) Place the filter paper or envelope into the sterile container and close it tightly and securely;
- 6) Identify the specimen as follows :
 - First and last name;
 - Date of birth and/or Medicare number;
 - Date and time of collection.
- 7) Place the container into the biohazard bag with the requisition;
- 8) Send the sample to the laboratory as soon as possible.