

FUNGAL SPECIMEN

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Required Specimen Type	Skin, nail or hair specimen.
Medical Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalpel (for skin), nail clippers or small scissors (for nails), tweezers (for hair); • Filter paper or envelope; • Sterile container or Petri dish; • Biohazard bag; • 70% alcohol or sterile water and gauze
General Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All specimens must include a double identification (first and last name of the patient and date of birth or medicare number). 2. The use of gloves is required when handling all biological specimens. 3. A valid requisition must include the following information : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name of the patient, date of birth or medicare number and gender. • Date and time of specimen collection and signature of collector. • Physician's full name, signature and license number (or other qualified prescriber). • Any relevant clinical information. • Requested tests.
Patient Preparation	N/A
Specimen Collection Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Skin specimens; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the area with alcohol or sterile water; 2. Let air dry; 3. Scrape the infected area using the scalpel; 4. Place skin scapping onto the filter paper or into an envelope; B. Nail clippings; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the area with alcohol or sterile water; 2. Let air dry; 3. Using the nail clipper, cut off a portion of the nail. Then, using the scalpel, scrape debris found under the nail; 4. Place the nail and scapping onto the filter paper or into an envelope; C. Hair specimen; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not necessary to wash the scalp; 2. Remove the broken hair from the infected region; 3. Using the tweezers, pull out at least 10 hairs. If the scalp is shaven, use the scalpel to collect some skin scrapings; 4. Place the hair and scrapings onto the filter paper or into an envelope; D. Standard instructions for all specimen types; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Fold the filter paper, or close the envelope; 6. Place the filter paper or envelope into the sterile container and close it tightly and securely; 7. Place the container into the biohazard bag with the requisition placed in the side pocket of the bag; 8. Send the sample to the laboratory as soon as possible.
Additional Information	The viability of certain specimens degrades with time, therefore, it is important to bring the sample to the laboratory as soon as possible;
Specimen Conservation and Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room temperature.