

INSTRUCTION FOR DIRECT PLATING OF CONJUNCTIVAL AND CORNEAL SCRAPINGS

1. “CORNEAL SCRAPE” PACK CONTENTS

Agar plates, microscope slides and a copy of instructions are found in the fridge outside Microbiology reception. (ground floor, Maidstone Hospital).

Check there is:

- 1 x Columbia Blood Agar (red in colour)
- 1 x “Chocolate” Columbia Blood Agar (brown in colour)
- 1 x Sabouraud Dextrose agar (clear plate)
- 1 x microscope slide box. This box should contain 2 slides.

2. PROCEDURE

- Label the back of each plate (NOT the lid) with the Name of the patient. If possible, use a patient label.
- Inoculate the scrapings directly onto the centre of the plate. Try not to dig into the agar.
- Inoculate the glass slide with the scrapings.
 - Label the frosted part of the slide with the patients name using a pencil.
 - Place the inoculum in the middle of the slide. Circle the area on the slide which has been inoculated using a marker pen.
- Dispose of the needle in a sharps bin after use.
- Complete a request form for each patient, ensuring that if the microscopy result is required urgently, the method of phoning that result is clearly stated on the request form.
- During normal laboratory hours (09:00 – 17:30 Monday to Friday) deliver (or arrange for a porter) the specimen and form to Microbiology.
- Outside laboratory hours, please contact the Biomedical Scientist On call through switchboard.

Intraocular specimens such as Vitreous and Aqueous taps may be processed in the same way, **however** we would prefer to process this in the laboratory where possible. Please contact laboratory for advice.