

Microbiology User Information: Cannulae/ central line tips

Indications for Laboratory Cannulae/ central line tip Samples:

Do not send intravascular line tips on removal if there is no indication or clinical suspicion of infection
Indications: site inflamed or unexplained fever with central line in situ.

Hospital Antimicrobial Guidelines: [Antimicrobial Guidelines \(formularywkccgmtw.co.uk\)](http://formularywkccgmtw.co.uk)

Request form requirements:

Providing adequate clinical details to microbiology request forms is vital for the safety of laboratory staff and ensuring patient tests are correctly interpreted. Please include details of relevant clinical information, current, just finished or intended antibiotic therapy.

Indicate site and duration line in situ before removal.

Minimum volume of sample:

Cut off 4 cm of the tip

Time to laboratory:

Specimens should be sent to the laboratory soon as possible. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature.

For information on transport, including days and times, please see [Pathology Transport Services](#)

Laboratory Testing:

All Microbiology laboratory investigations are based on UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations which can be found [HERE](#). If further advice is required, please contact the laboratory.

Laboratory Turn Around Time (from Date/Time of Receipt in Laboratory):

Culture results: 2-3 working days

Time limit for requesting additional investigations:

24 hours


Adverse factors affecting the interpretation of microscopy and culture results:

- Contamination of the sample at the point of collection
- Time between collection to culture should ideally be < 4 hours.
- Excessive temperature

Note: rapid transport to the laboratory is the best way to minimise uncertainty of results

Specimen Collection:

Collect specimens before starting antimicrobial therapy where possible

Cannulae/ central line tips culture	
Collection Containers	<p>Sterile Universal Containers (20ml- white)</p> 
Specimen Type	<p>Line tips (eg CVP or Hickman lines)</p> <p>n.b urinary catheter tips or NG tips are inappropriate specimen types and will NOT be processed</p>
Collection Method	<p>Disinfect the skin around the cannula entry site, remove cannula using aseptic technique, and cut off 4cm of the tip into an appropriate CE marked leak proof container using sterile scissors.</p> <p>Place in sealed plastic bags for transport.</p> <p>Cannulae should only be sent if there is evidence of infection.</p> <p>At least two blood cultures should be obtained when catheter infection is suspected by peripheral venepuncture</p>