



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES



HERPES/CMV CULTURE SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT

Place ice pack in freezer upon receipt.

Procedure for collection:

1. Verify that the Universal Transport Medium (UTM) has not expired. Results obtained from specimens received in expired media may not accurately reflect patient condition.
2. Identify the patient. Label the UTM transport media with patient name, specimen source and the date of collection.
3. Fill out the PHL test requisition form completely and legibly.
4. Include a case history with the specimen.
5. Collect the specimens under the following conditions:
 - a) Use swabs provided (cotton or rayon-tipped with a plastic shaft).
DO NOT use calcium alginate or wood applicator swabs as the substances may be toxic to the virus.
 - b) Specimens for viral isolation must be collected as soon as possible after onset of illness. The earlier the specimen is taken, the better the chance of isolation.
 - c) Vesicular or pustular fluid should be collected with a sterile capillary pipette or tuberculin syringe; or using a swab, collect cellular scrapings from the base of the lesion.
 - d) Place the swab tip in the transport media.
 - e) Seal tube tightly. Label tube with the name of patient and date of collection. Place tube in plastic bag provided in the kit.
6. Specimens should be refrigerated as soon as possible after collecting. Keep specimen cold (4-8° C) at all times from collection to shipping to receipt at the laboratory. Place the specimen in the aluminum inner liner with the freezer pack provided in the kit. Cap the inner liner. Wrap the completed PHL test requisition form around the outside of the inner liner and place into the cardboard mailing container.
7. Forward to the laboratory as soon as possible. **DO NOT FREEZE SPECIMEN AT ANY TIME.**
8. Avoid mailing specimens on Fridays or before holidays to decrease the amount of time spent in transit.

The Herpes/CMV collection kit consists of:

1. 1 tube of UTM viral transport media
2. 1 DACRON nasopharyngeal swab
3. 2 DACRON plastic shaft swabs
4. Parafilm
5. 1 small resealable bag
6. 1 freezer pack
7. Specimen collection instructions
8. PHL test requisition form
9. Cylindrical aluminum liner
10. Cardboard mailing container

If there are any questions concerning specimen collection or ordering kits, please call (603) 271-4661 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4661.

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