

Michigan
COMMUNITY INTEGRATED PARAMEDICINE
Procedure Protocol
SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Initial Date: October 23, 2020

Revised Date:

Section 11-33

This protocol is for trained CIP Paramedics only. If during assessment, procedure, or treatment the patient is found to have a medical emergency in need of hospital treatment, the CIP visit will be suspended, and local MCA protocols utilized.

Purpose: Provide guidelines for CIP paramedics to obtain and transport specimen at the request of a health care provider as approved by the MCA

Aliases: labs, strep test, swab test

- I. Indications
 - a. Order from a clinician requesting specimen collection to be obtained and transported to the appropriate testing facility when a patient has a barrier to submitting specimens in a timely manner.
 - b. Specimen collection for the purpose of point of care testing.
- II. Procedure
 - a. For all procedures accompanied by a physician's order.
 - i. Review order for special instructions prior to collecting the specimen
 - ii. Label with the patient's name, date of birth, and additional information required for the specific specimen (source, date, time) or required by the MCA or specimen testing facility.
 - iii. Complete appropriate lab paperwork.
 - iv. Transport sample in a biohazard bag or follow clinician's order for shipping.
 - b. ☒ Lab Draw (optional)
 - i. Considerations: Patients who are on blood thinners may require prolonged direct pressure after blood draw. Equipment
 1. Appropriate needle
 2. Rainbow tubes
 - ii. Procedure
 1. Select an appropriate site and using universal precautions cannulate the vein.
 2. Blood tubes should be collected in the order of red, green, purple, pink and blue.
 - c. ☒ Urine Specimen (optional)
 - i. Equipment
 1. Urine specimen cup
 2. wipes
 - ii. Procedure
 1. Obtain sample through method ordered (clean catch, foley bag, etc.)

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- d. ☒ Nasal Swab
 - i. Equipment – appropriate swabs for specific test
 - ii. Procedure
 - 1. Place patient in seated position
 - 2. Tilt patient's head back slightly to visualize nasal passages
 - 3. Gently insert swab along nasal septum, just above the floor of the nasal passage, to the nasopharynx
 - a. Stop when resistance is met & do not force the swab further
 - b. If resistance is detected, pull back slightly and try reinserting at a different angle, closer to the floor of the nasal canal
 - c. The swab should reach a depth equal to the distance from the nostrils to the outer opening of the ear
 - 4. Rotate swab several times, remaining in the passage for 10 seconds
 - 5. Gently removed swab while rotating
 - 6. Place swab into collection tube according to directions and prior to breaking the stick
 - 7. Secure lid on the tube
 - e. ☒ Throat Swab
 - i. Equipment – appropriate swabs for specific test
 - ii. Procedure
 - 1. Place patient in seated position
 - 2. Tilt patient's head back, instruct them to open their mouth and stick out their tongue
 - 3. Use a wooden tongue depressor to hold the tongue in place
 - 4. Visualize the posterior nasopharynx and tonsillar arches
 - 5. Without touching the side of the mouth, insert the swab reaching the posterior nasopharynx and tonsillar arches wiping the swab on the area
 - 6. Place swab into collection tube according to directions and prior to breaking the stick
 - 7. Secure the lid on the tube
- III. Documentation **see CIP Documentation protocol**
- a. Additionally: testing procedure used and results if applicable