

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	AFB smear (Fluorescent staining by Auramine-O method, light microscopy by Ziehl-Neelsen staining)
Other Name (s)	Acid Fast Bacilli smear
Analyte(s)	Detection of Acid-Fast bacilli by staining
Test Code	Part of test code 3100
Lab location	Jacksonville location
Department	Mycobacteriology (TB)
Pre-Approval Required	None
Required Forms	BPHL Test Requisition, DH1847 (Not needed if orders placed via WebLIMS)
Specimen Sources	Multiple specimen types acceptable. Sputum or other respiratory sample (5 ml minimum). Processed specimens are acceptable. AFB smears cannot be performed on blood specimens. Air-dried smears may be submitted - for AFB Smear only (No AFB culture. Order test code 3100 and AFB Culture will be canceled.)
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	> 5 ml of unprocessed specimen or 0.5 - 1 ml of processed specimen in 50 ml sterile conical tube, shipped in double container. Gastric Lavage specimens must be neutralized with 100 mg of sodium carbonate if the time between collection and processing exceeds 4 hours.
Minimum Volume	> 5 ml of unprocessed specimen or 0.5 - 1 ml of processed specimen
Storage Conditions	Store specimens refrigerated until time of shipment.
Collection Media	50 ml sterile conical tube.
Specimen Labeling	Must have two unique patient identifiers, preferably patient name, and date of birth. Specimens not meeting these criteria will be rejected.
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Specimens can be shipped within the 2-28°C temperature range, except for urine specimens, which must be shipped refrigerated (2 - 8°C). Processed urine sediments may be shipped within the 2-28°C temperature range and must be clearly marked on the requisition as "Processed". Air-dried smears should be placed in a slide holder during shipment, stored and shipped within the 2-28°C temperature range. Separation of specimens to prevent cross-contamination.
Test Methodology	Fluorescent staining by Auramine-O method. Light microscopy by Ziehl-Neelsen.
Turnaround Time	24 hours
Result Indicator	Smear: Positive (+/-, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+) with quantitation per unit area. Negative: No AFB seen.
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Formalin fixed or paraffin-embedded tissues. No patient identification on specimen tube. No specimen observed in specimen container. Specimen damaged or leaked entirely in transit. Gastric aspirates that have not been neutralized. Urine specimens arriving outside of acceptable temperature range. AFB Smear cannot be performed on blood specimens.
Interferences and Limitations	Blood.
Additional Information & Notes	Unprocessed specimens with <5ml submitted will receive the following comment "Specimen was less than 5mL; negative results may be unreliable."
Reference Range	Negative. No AFB Seen.
Reference Lab	Not applicable for AFB Smears
Reflex testing	Positive smear specimens will reflex to rtPCR for all new patients or when > 6 months since last rtPCR test. (Cannot be done if only air-dried smear submitted).

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