

# **Specimen Collection, Transport and Storage**

## **Basic Concepts for Specimen Collection**

- Should be taken from the site of the actual or suspected infection
- Optimal times for specimen collection must be established
- A sufficient quantity of specimen must be obtained
- Appropriate collection devices
- Specimen containers must be properly labeled and accompanied by a request form

## **Transportation**

- Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible (preferably within 2 hours)
- Fluids and tissue specimens should be transported to the lab in sterile container without the addition of preservative
- Transport medium is required for swab (e.g. Stuart, Amies transport media)
- Anaerobic and fastidious bacteria

## **Laboratory Specimen Reception**

- Entry of essential data into the laboratory's records
- Visual examination and determination of whether all criteria for acceptance are met

### **Examples:**

- . No label
- . Improper or leaking container
- . Prolonged transport
- . Specimen unsuitable for request