**Microbiology Test Order Reference Guide**

**Red Top – Dual Swab with Liquid Amies**

Use for:
- **Routine Culture**: Superficial wound, lesion, eye, ear
- **Fungal Culture**: All specimen sources
- **Upper Respiratory Culture**: Throat, nasal, sinus
- **Reproductive Culture**: Vaginal, penile, genital
- **Screening Cultures**: MRSA, VRE, CRE, FRE, Group A Strep, Group B Strep
- **NAAT Tests**: MRSA, Staph aureus, Strep A
- **Other Tests**: Rapid Strep, Vaginal Wet Mount

Do Not Use for:
- **Anaerobic Culture**

**Blue Top – Gel Swab with Amies Gel**

Use for:
- **Aerobic/Aerobic Culture**: Deep wound, surgical site, abscess
- **Routine Culture**: Superficial wound, lesion, eye, ear
- **Fungal Culture**: All specimen sources
- **Upper Respiratory Culture**: Throat, nasal
- **Reproductive Culture**: Vaginal, penile, genital
- **Screening Cultures**: MRSA, VRE, CRE, FRE

Do Not Use for:
- **NAAT testing**

**Green Top – Soft Aluminum Wire Swab with Liquid Amies**

Use for:
- **Routine Culture**: Sinus, eye, ear
- **Fungal Culture**: Sinus, eye, ear
- **Reproductive Culture**: Male urethral
- **NAAT Tests**: Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis NAAT

**Gray Top Boric Acid Tube**

Use for:
- **Urine Culture**: Cathed and voided specimens

Note:
- Transfer urine from collection cup to Boric Acid tube immediately after collection.

**M4 or M6 Viral Transport Media**

Use for:
- **Viral NAAT Tests**: Influenza, RSV, Extended Respiratory Panel, Atypical pneumonia, VZV, HSV, CMV, Adenovirus, Chlamydia pneumoniae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae
- **Viral Isolation Culture**: Tissue, vesicle, eye, oral lesion
- **Chlamydia Culture**: Respiratory, genital
- **Mycoplasma Culture**: Respiratory, genital

Notes:
- For viral testing only. Cannot be used for bacterial NAAT testing (including MRSA, Staph aureus, Strep, etc.).
- NAAT testing for viruses, chlamydia, and mycoplasma is recommended over culture.
- Cannot be used for Chlamydia trachomatis (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG), or Trichomonas NAAT testing.

**Sterile Container (no additives)**

Use for:
- **Unpreserved Stool Specimen**: C. difficile NAAT, Helicobacter pylori antigen, Rotavirus antigen, Gram stain
- **Lower Respiratory Specimen**: Sputum, BAL, mini-BAL, bronch wash for culture or NAAT testing
- **Urine Specimen**: Urine collection for culture or NAAT testing (transfer urine to Boric Acid tube for culture; transfer urine to Roche cobas tube for CT/NG NAAT if cannot submit cup to lab within 24 hours)
- **Tissue, Bone, or Fluid Specimen**: Place tissue or bone in saline. Use for larger volumes of sterile body fluids.

**Stool Collection Containers**

Use for:
- **White Top Para-Pak Clean Vial**: C. difficile NAAT, Helicobacter pylori antigen, Rotavirus antigen, Gram stain
- **Orange Top Para-Pak C&S Vial**: Stool culture, Norovirus NAAT
- **Green Top Para-Pak EcoFix Vial**: Ova & parasite exam, Cryptosporidium/Giardia DFA