



Infection Prevention and Control A Foundation Course 2014



Taking and Sending Samples

- Introduction
- Why take a sample?
- What are you sampling?
- Implications of sampling?
- What equipment is needed
- How to complete a form correctly?



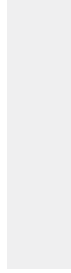
Introduction

- Inform patient of the reasons for the test
- Explain procedure to patient
- Collect specimen with as little contamination as possible (do not collect from toilet)
- Collect adequate amount of specimen



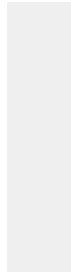
Why take a sample?

- Is the patient symptomatic?
- Is there treatment?
- National guidelines/recommendations
- Do no harm



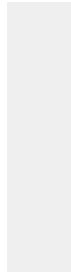
What are you sampling?

- Is it the correct sample to make the correct diagnosis, eg MSU ensure it is MSU
- Is it the correct time of day to sample, eg TB sputum, before antibiotic administration
- Are you using the correct specimen container?



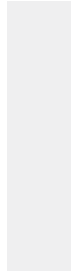
Implications of sampling

- If diarrhoeal sample have you isolated the patient?
- If suspecting any infectious disease have you considered transmission based precautions?
- Is there a process to ensure results are followed up and treatment commenced if necessary?



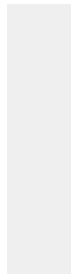
Safe handling of specimens

- Avoid contamination of outside of package
- Place correctly labelled specimen in individual transparent plastic transport bag
- Request form is kept separate to specimen pocket
- Store appropriately while awaiting transport
- Check the individual specimen requirements
- Contact your local laboratory or check their web site for information



Specimen rejection

- Common causes to reject specimens
- Samples received in a hazardous condition
- Sample identification on either request form or sample bottle incomplete
- Sample unlabelled or incorrectly labelled
- Sample is received with incorrect patient preparation
- Sample collected under inappropriate conditions

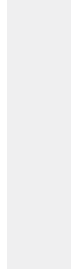


Packaging



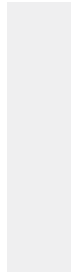
Specimens by Post

- An post will accept diagnostic specimens for carriage provided UN No. 3373 are labelled correctly and are packaged in accordance with ADR packaging
- Packaging shall consist of three components
 - A primary receptacle
 - A secondary packaging
 - An outer packaging



Right action on results

- Ensure results are reviewed by doctors in a timely fashion
- Patients and/ or NOK need **to be informed**
- **Made aware of the future impact if any of the result**



Conclusion

- Right reason for taking the sample
- Right equipment
- Right procedure
- Right details on the request form
- Right action on results

