



Human Physiology

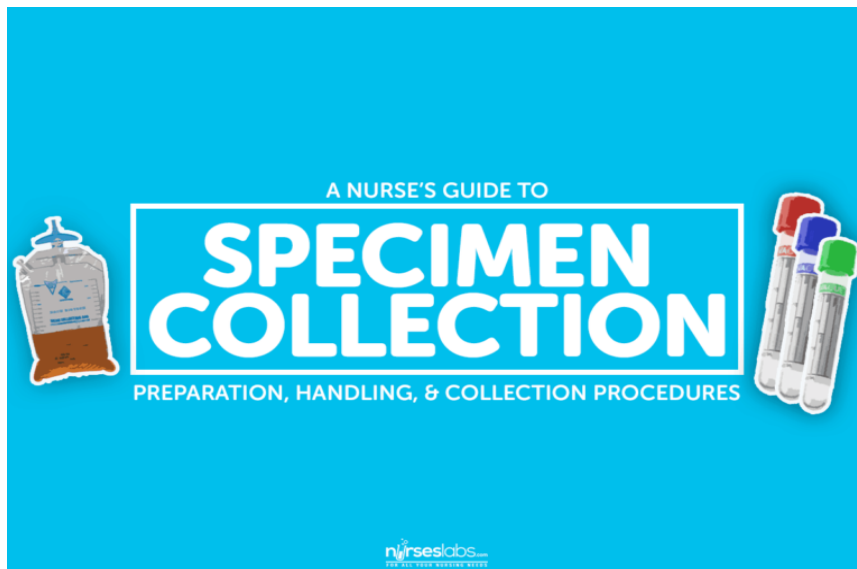
Specimen collection

Lab. 2

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What is Specimen Collection?

Collecting specimens is the process of acquiring tissue or fluids for laboratory analysis. Some of the samples collected may include serum samples, virology swab samples, biopsy and necropsy tissue, cerebrospinal fluid, whole blood for PCR, and urine samples. Medical Assistants collect these samples and then place them in specific contain

What is the Purpose of Specimen Collection?

Specimen collection is vital for acquiring an accurate and timely laboratory test result. To properly collect specimens, they must be obtained through designated containers, correctly labeled, and promptly transported to the lab.

Specimen Collection Procedure

With these steps, you can start to learn more about the process of collecting specimens. Of course, just like any other skill, specimen collection requires a little time and practice to get it right. Remember to follow the rules of your facility and ask for help whenever necessary.

Specimen Collection Preparation

While most collections don't require much prep, there are some guidelines that must be followed. These include reviewing the appropriate information, such as the indicated specimen type, the volume, the procedure, the collection materials, patient prep, and storage instructions.

Specimen Collection Steps

Here are some of the general guidelines you should follow when collecting specimens from a patient:

1-Verify the patient's identity. Some examples of acceptable identifiers include the patient's name, date of birth, and hospital number

2-Acquire a sample from the patient. Treat all biological material as potentially hazardous and follow your facility's guidelines.

3-Process the specimen as required by your facility or employer.

4-Store the specimen. Appropriate storage is critical to maintaining the integrity of the specimen and, therefore, the test results.

Necessary Equipment for Specimen Collection

Typically, the suggested supplies for specimen collection include but are not limited to the following items:

Gloves

Hand sanitizer

Specimen container

Body material sample

Incubator

Refrigerator or freezer

Potential Risks or Complications of Specimen Collection

Specimen collection is often safe and relatively painless for patients.

Although there may be pain associated with blood draws, it should not be significant or cause any lasting damage.

Preparing the Patient.

Provide the patient, in advance, with appropriate collection instructions and information on fasting, diet, and medication restrictions when indicated for the specific test.

Avoiding Common Problems

Careful attention to routine procedures can eliminate most of the potential problems related to specimen collection. Materials provided by the laboratory for specimen collection can maintain the quality of the specimen only when they are used in strict accordance with the instructions provided. To collect a sufficient quantity of each type of specimen indicated for the procedures to be performed, please consult the volume requirements published in this *Directory*.