

## J-160 Wound Drainage Collection

### Purpose

Determine presence of pathogenic microorganisms in a wound.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Culture tube with cotton-tipped swab and transport medium (aerobic culture).
- Anaerobic culture tube with swab.
- 5-to 10-ml syringe with 21-gauge needle.
- One pair disposable gloves.
- One pair sterile gloves.
- Antiseptic swab.
- Dressing change supplies.
- Disposable plastic or paper bag.

### Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Don disposable gloves and remove old dressing. Assess drainage and characteristics. Fold dressing together and discard.
3. Cleanse outer edges of wound with antiseptic swab to remove old exudate.  
*This prevents possible contamination by removing skin flora.*
4. Remove disposable gloves and discard waste.
5. Open culture containers and prepare dressing supplies.
6. Wash hands and don sterile gloves.
7. Collect Aerobic Culture:
  - a. Insert tip of swab from tube into drainage area of wound and rotate gently.
  - b. Remove swab and place in tube.
  - c. Crush ampule of medium and push swab into fluid.
  - d. Tightly secure top on container. Specimen should be collected from fresh drainage.

8. Collect Anaerobic Culture:
  - a. Insert tip of swab from anaerobic tube deeply into draining body cavity and rotate gently. Remove swab and place in tube. *Oxygen is not present when specimen is collected from deep within wound.*

OR

  - b. Insert tip of 5-to 10-ml syringe (without needle) into wound and aspirate drainage. Attach needle and expel all air. Inject drainage into anaerobic culture tube. *Ensure that no air is injected. Air will cause organisms to die.*
9. Clean wound and perform dressing change according to the appropriate wound care dressing procedure. Secure in place.
10. Remove gloves and discard equipment as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
11. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
12. Place labeled specimen(s) in biohazard bag and attach requisition. Deliver to laboratory.

**Documentation Guidelines**

Document in the clinical record:

1. Specimen collection type, date, and time.
2. Appearance of wound, drainage characteristics, and signs and symptoms of infection.
3. The client’s tolerance of the procedure.

**Related Procedures**

Wound Care procedure, as appropriate

**Policy History**

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