

Copan eSwab flocced swab and BD EZ II Culture Swab Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why the change?

The Copan eSwab flocced swab recovers organisms better than standards swabs and will allow a culture and a gram stain to be done from a single swab.

The BD EZ II Culture swab is a double swab in a single sheath that can be used for Rapid strep testing.

2. What type of cultures are the Copan eSwab flocced swab used for?

The eSwabs are for bacterial and yeast culture; aerobic and anaerobic. The eSwab is a swab, and a transport device. An aerobic culture, an anaerobic culture, yeast culture, and/or gram stain or fungal stain can all be obtained from a single eSwab in an eSwab vial.

3. Are 2 Copan eSwab flocced swabs required for gram stain and culture?

No, one eSwab allows for Aerobic culture, Anaerobic culture, Yeast culture, Gram stain, and Fungal stain. Multiple swabs are not required.

4. Can the Copan eSwab flocced swab be used for Rapid Beta Strep also?

No. The Rapid Beta strep test must be done on a dry swab. Use the BD EZ II double swab for the Rapid Beta strep and confirmation.

5. Will the Copan eSwab flocced swab replace port-a-cult vials and tubes?

The Copan eSwab will replace the port-a-cult vial **for swab samples only**. They should NOT be used for fluids such as joint or pleural fluid.

6. Can a Copan eSwab flocced swab be used to collect skin scrapings for fungal culture?

NO, the best sample for Fungal or AFB culture is the skin scraping itself.

Specimen Collection processes and recommended sample type have not changed.

The eSwab and EZ II swabs are modifications in specimen transport only. In all circumstances, a swab is NOT the specimen of choice, but acceptable if a more appropriate sample cannot be obtained.

“SWABS” are NOT the Specimen of Choice for Fluid Culture (FLD) or Wound Culture (WC).

“SWABS” are UN- ACCEPTABLE specimens for Fungal (FCO) and AFB culture (AFBC).

7. If a BD EZ II Culture Swab is mistakenly used to collect a wound culture, is it acceptable?

Yes, it is just not the “preferred” sample transport device. The specimen will not be rejected.

8. Is the eSwab an acceptable specimen for Herpes and Varicella DNA probe tests?

YES-the lab spoke to Mayo Clinic concerning the eSwab for Herpes and Varicella PCR testing (DNA) and eSwabs are an acceptable transport or collection media.

Copan Virology Website:

<http://www.copanusa.com/index.php/industry/virology/>

9. Is their use suggested or mandatory? Will the old swabs still be accepted?

The BD culturette swabs are being replaced hospital wide with the Copan eSwab and the EZ II Swab, so their use is mandatory. However, the transition will be gradual and the old swabs will be accepted, until locations use up their inventory and receive the “new” product from the warehouse.

10. Where can I obtain Copan eSwab flocced swabs and/or BD EZ II Culture Swabs?

eSwabs and EZ II swabs will become normal warehouse items. As your (location specific) supplies are depleted, they will be replaced by distribution, with these products. There is no cost to you this is a “no charge” product.

New Lawson or Stock #554408 Swab BD EZII Dual and Lawson #554409 Swab Copan eSwab.

Items are going to be supplied by the warehouse. Starting on Monday, March 12 you will be able to order them on line.

11. What is the expected shelf life of the product?

Expected shelf life is at least one year.

12. Can the swabs be ordered as an “each” item from the warehouse or must we order by the box?

Yes, they can be ordered as an “each” item.

13. What is the cost of both swabs and if there is an increase, has the expense been built into the 2012 expense budget?

Yes, the swabs were budgeted for 2012, and the cost comes directly out of the laboratory budget, at no cost to the ordering sites.

14. In order to properly train staff in their use, we need to have some samples. What is the expected date when they will be available from the warehouse?

The expected “GO LIVE” date is March 19, 2012. We are waiting for further information from the warehouse as to when they will be available to stock your areas. There are about 25 eSwabs in the Microbiology Department. Please contact Cheryl Burtch at 607-547-6716 if you would like a sample.

15. How is the information and training getting out to the providers, nurses, and staff?

Trainers from the lab, nurse managers and team leaders, and the POC staff are training users, and there are training guides available.

The eSwabs are pretty straight forward. The video at the Copan website, seen below, can be viewed and the PDF document printed.

<http://vimeo.com/7101694>



Copan ESwab
Collection Guide 2...

16. Who is distributing the information on the change to the providers? We have over 50 different providers in the building that could collect a specimen. Are they getting the information from their departments?

All providers will receive an email notification.

17. What is the storage and transport temperature for the BD EZ II Swab and eSwab and is the temperature storage consistent for each specimen type (example wound, throat, vaginal)?

The temperature and storage requirements remain the same as the with the current culturette swab you’re using now.

18. What is the retention time (how long will the Micro Lab hold the specimen) for the BD EZ II swab and eSwab specimens?

The retention time and storage requirements will remain the same as the with the current culturette swab you're using now.

19. Will the Lab Manual be updated to reflect the change to the new swabs?

Yes, the on-line Lab is being updated to reflect the changes and a reference chart with pictures is being added to the Lab home page of the Bassett Intranet.