



Collecting Bacterial Cultures

- Only collect bacterial cultures from residents with signs or symptoms suggesting bacterial infection.
- Bacteria growing in urine or sputum in residents without evidence of infection usually indicates bacterial colonization and does not require antibiotics.
- If a bacterial infection is suspected, follow local recommendations to obtain a good specimen that can be used to diagnose the infection and guide antibiotic therapy.
- A contaminated specimen, which may be due to poor collection techniques, can lead to unnecessary antibiotic prescribing and cause harm to patients.

