How to perform and order common dermatology tests: Outpatient/ED

1. **Bacterial culture:**
	1. Use an e-swab; pre-moisten swab with water prior to swabbing the skin
	2. If swabbing perianal skin and looking for staph/strep, write “staph/strep” in the miscellaneous section so the lab knows to use gram-positive culture medium
	3. For staph scalded skin, swab nares, umbilicus, and perianal skin (OK to use one swab for this collection if you do it in this order)
	4. For “future order Y/N”, choose “no”
2. **Dermatophyte fungal culture: for tinea capitis or corporis**
	1. Use an e-swab; pre-moisten with water prior to swabbing skin
	2. Swab site (if scalp, swab all 4 quadrants, affected areas last)
	3. Order as “Fungal culture” and write in **MC0002** in “specimen additional information”
		1. If you want the lab to speciate, do not write this code
	4. For “future order Y/N”, choose “no”
3. **HSV PCR: this is preferred to a viral culture, which takes longer and is less sensitive/specific**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order as HSV PCR, choose site “skin,” for future order, write “no”
	4. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **10868M**
4. **VZV PCR: this is preferred to a viral culture, which takes longer and is less sensitive/specific**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order as VZV PCR Qualitative, choose site “skin,” for future order, write “no”
	4. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **10975M**
5. **Mycoplasma PCR:**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Perform nasopharyngeal swab
	3. Order “Mycoplasma pneumoniae DNA, PCR”
	4. For \*Source choose “Nasopharynx”
	5. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **XOOO33**
6. **Enteroviral PCR: for coxsackieviruses**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order “Enterovirus Qualitative PCR”
	4. For \*Source choose “Nasopharynx” **(even if you did not swab the nasopharynx)**
	5. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **X00227**

**E-Swab** **Viral Culture Medium**

 

**For any questions, page dermatology at 202-259-4640**

How to perform and order common dermatology tests: Inpatient

1. **Bacterial culture:**
	1. Use an e-swab; pre-moisten swab with water prior to swabbing the skin
	2. If swabbing perianal skin and looking for staph/strep, write “staph/strep” in the miscellaneous section so the lab knows to use gram-positive culture medium
	3. For staph scalded skin, swab nares, umbilicus, and perianal skin (OK to use one swab for this collection if you do it in this order)
2. **HSV PCR: this is preferred to a viral culture, which takes longer and is less sensitive/specific**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order as HSV PCR, choose site “skin”
	4. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **10868M**
	5. For “clinician collect” choose “yes”; for “collected Y/N” choose “yes” (see Appendix A)
3. **VZV PCR: this is preferred to a viral culture, which takes longer and is less sensitive/specific**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order as VZV PCR Qualitative, choose site “skin”
	4. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **10975M**
	5. For “clinician collect” choose “yes”; for “collected Y/N” choose “yes” (see Appendix B)
4. **Mycoplasma PCR:**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Perform nasopharyngeal swab (nurse)
	3. Order “Mycoplasma pneumoniae DNA, PCR”
	4. For \*Source choose “Nasopharynx” (even if you did not swab the nasopharynx)
	5. In the box labeled “Specimen Additional Information” type in **XOOO33**
	6. For “clinician collect” choose “no”; for “collected Y/N” choose “no” (see Appendix C)
5. **Enteroviral PCR: for coxsackieviruses**
	1. Use viral culture medium (pink liquid)
	2. Unroof a blister with an 18 gauge needle and swab site
	3. Order “Enterovirus Qualitative PCR”
	4. For \*Source choose “Nasopharynx” **(even if you did not swab the nasopharynx)**
	5. On the tab labeled Order comments” type in **X00227**
	6. For “clinician collect” choose “yes”; for “collected Y/N” choose “yes” (see Appendix D)
6. **Printing labels on the wards:** The labels will print on the label printer associated with the patient’s room. Ask a nurse for assistance if you can’t find it.
7. **Send out lab phone number 202-476-2229, Quest Chantilly phone number: 1-800-336-3718**

**E-Swab** **Viral Culture Medium**

  

**For any questions, page dermatology at 202-259-4640**

**Appendix A:**



**Appendix B:**



**Appendix C:**



**Appendix D:**

