



# SAFETY ALERT

## Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) cultures

“Sharing Lessons Learned”

Microbiology Section has received during 2019 and early 2020 significant numbers of AFB culture requests with incorrectly selected body site or specimen type. This practice consumes time, introduces error and increase the Turn Around Time (TAT) of results. Incorrect selection of body sites must be verified with the collector before processing, thus delaying the specimen result.

### How to Select the correct specimen type & Body site?

The screenshot shows the 'Details for Acid Fast Bacilli Culture & Stain' form. The 'Specimen Type' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box and a green arrow pointing to it. The 'Body Site' dropdown menu is also highlighted with a red box and a green arrow pointing to it. Other fields include 'Collected' (Yes/No), 'Collection Priority' (Routine), 'Collection Date/Time' (14/12/2020 1038), 'Antibiotics' (empty), 'To be Collected by Nurse' (Yes/No), 'Reporting Priority' (Routine), and 'Order for Future Visit' (Yes/No).

Selecting the appropriate specimen type and Body site will ensure proper specimen processing and accurate results.

The screenshot shows the 'Details for Acid Fast Bacilli Culture & Stain' form with the 'Specimen Type' dropdown menu set to 'Sputum' and the 'Body Site' dropdown menu set to 'Expectorated'. Other fields include 'Collected' (Yes/No), 'Collection Priority' (Routine), 'Collection Date/Time' (14/12/2020 1038), 'Antibiotics' (Cipro), 'To be Collected by Nurse' (Yes/No), 'Reporting Priority' (Routine), and 'Order for Future Visit' (Yes/No).

For more information, please call the Microbiology Section  
68608/41491.