

# Instructions for Scabies Collection

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## PRINCIPLE

A mite called *Sarcoptes scabiei* infect humans by tunneling under the upper levels of the epidermis and depositing eggs and excrement. It is transmitted to other humans via scratching of the skin. Sites of skin infection are the interdigital spaces and flexor surfaces of the wrists, backs of the hands, elbows and forearms. Other areas of possible infection are axillae, groin, breasts, umbilicus, penis, shoulder blades, small of the back, and buttocks

## EQUIPMENT

1. Sterile scalpel blade
2. Mineral oil
3. Slide
4. Cover slip
5. Plastic single slide container or a Petri dish
6. Biohazard transport bag
7. Red and White Metropolitan Medical Laboratory requisition

**NOTE:** Using your inventory supply order form, write send “scabies collection kit” on the form and fax the form to 309-762-8014.

## PROCEDURE

1. Complete a red and white requisition with
  - a. Patient’s name
  - b. Social security number
  - c. Date of birth
  - d. Insurance information
  - e. Date
  - f. Source (Skin Scrapping) and specimen collection site
  - g. Test requested
  - h. Diagnosis
  - i. Time of collection
2. Label the frosted end of the slide with the patient’s name, date and small label from the red and white requisition.
3. Place the slide on a flat surface and apply one drop of mineral oil to the middle of the non-frosted section of the slide.
4. Using a sterile scalpel blade, scraping the tunneled areas of the infection to obtain epidermal skin cells.
5. Dip the scalpel blade into the mineral oil to dislodge the skin scraping.
6. Discard the scalpel in a biohazard sharps container at the collection site. Do not send the scalpel blade with the specimen.
7. Cover slip the mineral oil and place the slide into a Petri dish and tape the dish shut by placing the tape around the side edges of the dish. Or place the slide into a plastics single slide container. Slides and coverslips are considered hazardous sharps; therefore, secure the slides and coverslips in the plastic slide container or Petri dish prior to transporting the specimen.
8. Place the dish or slide container into a biohazard transport bag.
9. Place the requisition into the outside pocket of the biohazard transport bag.
10. Call the courier department for “STAT” pickup of the specimen.

## REFERENCE:

Henry, John Bernard, Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods, W. B. Saunders Company. 19<sup>th</sup> Ed, p. 1305-1306.