



**Date:** December 22, 2020  
**To:** ALL Calgary Zone Physicians and Podiatrists, Operating Room staff  
**From:** Medical Microbiology, South Sector-Calgary, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Shortage of Pre-reduced Anaerobic Transport Media (PRAS)

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

**Key Message:**



- Effective **immediately**, please conserve the use of Pre-Reduced Anaerobic Sterilized (PRAS) transport containers.
- The preferred specimens for anaerobic culture are tissues and fluids. Collect in sterile orange-top containers and transport STAT to the lab.

**Why this is important:**

- PRAS transport containers are in short supply in the Calgary Zone and it is currently unknown when sufficient stock or an alternate product will be obtained.

**Action Required:**

- 1) Please conserve the use of PRAS wherever possible.
- 2) Starting immediately, large tissue specimens ( $\geq 1$ -2cm) and fluids  $\geq 5$ mL should be transported to the Microbiology Laboratory in orange-top Sterile collection containers as per "[Calgary Microbiology Specimen Collection Containers](#)."
- 3) If PRAS becomes unavailable before an alternate product is found, small tissues and fluids  $< 5$ mL should be transported in orange-top sterile containers.
- 4) Swab specimens are always discouraged, but when this is the only specimen type possible, use PRAS if available and then switch to red-top AMIES swabs, noting that these will be processed for aerobic culture only.

ANAEROBIC CULTURE	
Starplex Sterile Collection Container with Orange Lid (90mL)	PRAS (Pre-Reduced Anaerobic Sterilized) Transport Media
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use for large tissue, bone, fluids <math>&gt; 5</math> mL, etc</li> <li>• Acceptable for anaerobic culture</li> </ul> <p>VWRCA73240-132</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use for Swabs, Fluids <math>&lt; 5</math> mL (small tissues and bone)</li> <li>• PRAS swabs are <b>NOT</b> suitable for AFB or Fungal culture</li> </ul> <p>VWRCA66410-143</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Do not use if media is lavender in color; this indicates anaerobic conditions have been compromised.</p>

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

- Leland Baskin, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector