

Wound cultures – Clinical Information

Indication

- Clinically infected wound.
- NOT lower limb ulcers *unless* there is significant surrounding erythema ie. cellulitis

Method

- Cleanse the wound with sterile saline to remove surface debris
- Firmly swab base of wound or sinus with dry swab and prepare slide for Gram stain
- Repeat with transport swab and send promptly to the laboratory in transport medium

Clinical notes

- Site of origin of specimen (normal flora is different at different sites)
- Recent procedures / surgery / trauma / water exposure
- Diabetes mellitus
- Details of any antimicrobial therapy