

Scabies (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) - skin scrapings for microscopic examination

Related Standards

- Scabies
- Contact Precautions

Standards:

Skin scrapings for microscopic examination will be taken by the physician or other qualified personnel.

Equipment Required:

1. Gloves, gown (as per contact precautions)
2. Scabies Scraping Kit (available from the laboratory):
 - Glass slide (1)
 - Cover slip (1)
 - Cardboard slide container/holder
 - Mineral oil with dropper
 - Alcohol prep
 - Disposable scalpel blade
 - Biohazard specimen transport bag
 - PHC Microbiology Laboratory requisition
 - Rubber band
3. **Note:** A Scabies Scraping Kit containing the above specimen collection supplies is available in the laboratories at SPH and MSJ and at each residential care site, who obtain replacements through the supply ordering procedure of MSJ lab.
4. Sharps container
5. Specimen label

Specimen Collection Procedure:

1. Explain procedure to patient/resident.
2. Clean hands. (Wash using soap and water or use ABHR)

3. Apply personal protection equipment as per Contact precautions (gown and gloves for direct care).
4. Remove any topical cream/ointment that has been applied on the area to be scraped.
5. Assemble equipment. Write name of patient/resident on the slide. Label the slide container. Fill out requisition, including exact specimen sites.
6. Identify areas to be scraped. Apply a small amount of mineral oil with the dropper or gauze to the area(s) being scraped.
7. With scalpel blade, scrape area vigorously 6 or 7 times to remove the top of the papule (there should be tiny flecks of blood in the oil). Repeat procedure on 3-4 different areas if available.
8. Transfer the oil and scraped material to a glass slide. Stir the mixture with the tip of the scalpel blade. Any large clumps can be crushed to expose hidden mites.
9. Place a cover-slip on top.
10. Place into slide container and enclose with rubber band.
11. Discard waste appropriately, i.e., scalpel blade into sharps container.
12. Remove gloves and gown. Wash hands.
13. Place slide container in the biohazard bag; close the zip lock.
14. Place the completed requisition in the **outside pouch** of the bag. Be sure to list the skin scraping sites on the requisition. Send to the laboratory responsible for your site, i.e., SPH or MSJ. (The MSJ laboratory will accession and forward the specimen to the Microbiology Lab.)

Notification:

The Microbiology laboratory will notify Infection Prevention and Control of all positive results.

REFERENCES:

Garcia, L.S. Diagnostic Medical Parasitology, 3rd Edition 1996, p. 549.

Murray, P.R. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th Edition 2003, p. 2075.

<http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/httoc.stm>

Policy Approved:	March 5, 2004
Approval Body:	PHC Infection Prevention and Control Standards Committee
Revision Date:	August 9, 2006
	December 4, 2012
	August 9, 2018