

## Chapter 18

### CASE STUDY 18.1 Sample collection and transport

- What samples would you suggest are taken and how should they be transported to the laboratory?

Urine sample and blood cultures.

- What would you advise the nurse to do and who else would need to be contacted?

Send repeat samples using portering staff until air tube problem resolved.

- How would you proceed with the sample and who would you contact?

Nursing/clinical staff explain the problem and repeat samples required. Discard blood culture as likely to be contaminated due to break in bottle.

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### CASE STUDY 18.2 Sample Courier Incident

- What would you advise the emergency services to do based on sample release?

Treat all samples as potential category 3. Wait for specialist laboratory team to assist with the clean-up operation.

- What would you need to investigate?

The sample types and the type of patients they were from as there may be samples from patients with active TB or HIV.

- What would you suggest is the next stage in the process?

Take blood samples to determine patients' HIV and hepatitis status in case of infection. Inform infectious disease clinicians. Identify samples and try to determine infective status of the patient.

- What would be your response?

Check status of patient blood at time of accident and if negative HIV may have developed as a result of the accident.

- Was the advice you gave initially and your actions sufficient?

Yes.

- What do you need to ensure is in place with your courier drivers and the owners?

SOPs in place to deal with such an incident and driver training to deal with consequences of an accident.

Should have break-proof containers for sample transport.

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### CASE STUDY 18.3 Insufficient sample

- How would you proceed to process the sample?

Culture would be the most important since the patient has been started on optimal treatment for a suspected meningitis.

- Who on the wards would you contact and why?

The clinical staff looking after the patient to inform them of what you have done and why no microscopy is available.

- What would be your choice of culture media and why?

Chocolate agar in CO<sub>2</sub> or if very little sample broth enrichment.

- Is this the best course of action?

If such a small sample broth enrichment may be best.

- What is your next course of action regarding the culture plates?

Re-incubate for slow growing organisms.

- What other investigations would you suggest to the clinicians?

Send sample for antigen testing or 16S as no organisms may be isolated due to therapy.

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