



Test	Partial Acid-Fast Stain for Aerobic Actinomyces/Nocardia
Test Description	The Partial Acid-Fast Stain (PAF) test determines the presence of partial acid-fast organisms such as <i>Nocardia</i> spp. and other aerobic actinomycetes in fluids and tissues from miscellaneous body sites.
Acceptable specimens	<p>Sputum (expectorated or induced)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended volume: 5–10 mL • Minimum volume: 3 mL • Specimens consisting of saliva only will be rejected. • If induced sputum is collected, label the sterile container “INDUCED”. <p>Other respiratory (lower)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended volume: 5–10 mL • Minimum volume: 3 mL <p>Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended volume: 10 mL • Minimum volume: 2 mL <p>Other sterile body fluids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended volume: 15 mL • Minimum volume: 2 mL <p>Abscess aspirate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended volume: 5–15 mL • Minimum volume: 1 mL • Specimen source must be indicated in the requisition form. <p>Tissue and bone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended amount: 1 g (smaller quantities accepted) • Do not immerse in saline or other liquids. • Do no wrap in gauze. <p>Note: Specimens should be collected in sterile containers. Specimens that have leaked from their collection container will be rejected.</p>
Specimen storage	Specimens, except for CSF, should be stored refrigerated at 2–8 °C.
Specimen shipping and packaging	CSF specimens are stored at room temperature. Specimens, except for CSF, should be transported refrigerated (ice packs) and received by the laboratory to

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	<p>ensure that processing can occur <u>within 7 days</u> from the time of collection.</p> <p>CSF specimens should be transported as soon as possible at ambient temperature.</p>
CPT code	87015 (concentration); 87206 (smear)
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule.
Result availability (turnaround time)	Smear results are typically reported within 1 business day after specimen receipt.