



# Puritan® Individually Wrapped Swabs

**PRODUCT NAME/DESCRIPTION:** Puritan Traditional Spun Fiber (Cotton, Polyester, Rayon, Calcium Alginate), Foam, HydraFlock® and PurFlock Ultra® Flocked Swabs Individually Wrapped.

**INTENDED USE:** Individually wrapped Puritan traditional fiber, foam, HydraFlock and PurFlock Ultra swabs are ready-to-use devices intended to be used by trained laboratory and medical professionals for the collection and of clinical specimens.

**BACKGROUND:** Proper sample collection is critical for the accurate analysis of clinical specimens. Puritan Medical Products Company offers swabs in various tip sizes and handle shapes to deliver optimal collection in a variety of applications. Product labels indicate the method of sterilization for sterile swabs.

**GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES:** Ensure optimal sample collection by following good laboratory practices when utilizing Puritan swabs:

- For single use only. Do not alter packaging, reuse or re-sterilize. Re-use may cause infection, sample contamination, and/or inaccurate results.
- Do not use if packaging is damaged or the expiration date printed on the label has passed.
- Minimize potential for sample contamination by ensuring swab tip touches only the suspected infectious area.
- Reliable specimen collection depends on many factors including collection and handling technique, specimen conditions and timing. Best results are achieved when specimens are processed shortly after collection. If delays are anticipated, swab specimen is recommended to be stored in a suitable buffered preservative until it is processed. Refer to corresponding reference standard for optimum collection techniques.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Use of this product in conjunction with a rapid diagnostic test or instrument should be validated by the user or test/instrument manufacturer.
- All clinical specimens may contain infectious microorganisms. Wear appropriate protective equipment and follow laboratory and biosafety guidelines when handling and disposing of clinical specimens.

## PRECAUTIONS:

- Do not apply excessive force when collecting samples from patients as it may result in unintended breakage of the device handle.
- Swabs should remain in continuous contact with skin or mucosal membrane collection sites for < 60 minutes.

**STORAGE:** Store Puritan products at temperatures indicated on the label.

## HOW TO USE:

1. Peel open sterile pouch. (Fig. 1)
2. Remove swab and collect specimen. Ensure applicator tip only touches the suspected infectious area to minimize potential contamination. (Fig. 2)
3. Swab should be processed immediately according to internal laboratory instructions. Alternatively, swab may be placed in a sterile tube marked with patient information and transferred to laboratory for microbiological analysis.
4. Disposal of tubes and swabs must be done according to laboratory regulations for biohazard waste.

## References:

- 1 Miller, J.M. 1999. A guide to specimen management in clinical microbiology. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC
- 2 "Media Transport Systems." Puritan Medical Products. Puritan Medical Products LLC, n.d. Web. 17 Apr. 2014. <http://www.puritanmedproducts.com>

*This guide is for illustration purposes only. This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional, medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Please consult with a licensed medical professional and or the test manufacturer's product insert for specific specimen collection and transport instructions. For the most accurate and up-to-date testing and treatment guidelines, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov) for more information*

