Culture, Diphtheria *Corynebacterium diphtheria*

**Method:** Culture

**CPT Code:** 87166

**Preferred Specimen:** Culture collection swab in culturette, If membranes are present and can be removed, swab from beneath the membrane

**Other Acceptable Specimens:** None

**Specimen Identification:** Label transport tube or container with patient’s first name, last name and DOB include date and time of collection.

**Special Instructions:**
- Notify Laboratory of diphtheria request ASAP.
- Indicate specific specimen source on requisition.
- Include any pertinent patient medical history.
- Indicate suspected diagnosis

**Shipping Requirements:** Store and ship at room temperature immediately DO NOT refrigerate.

**Sample Rejection Criteria:**
- Inappropriate specimen transport
- Expired culturette
- Leaking transport container
- Mislabeled or Unlabeled specimen
- Specimen not representative of the anatomic site from which *C. diphtheria* is commonly found.
- Specimen > 72 hours old

**Turn-around-time:** 72-96 hours