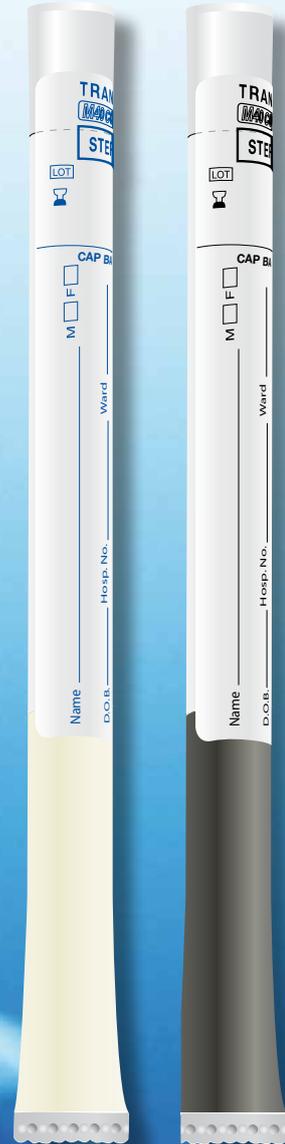


Transwab®

The original and still the best

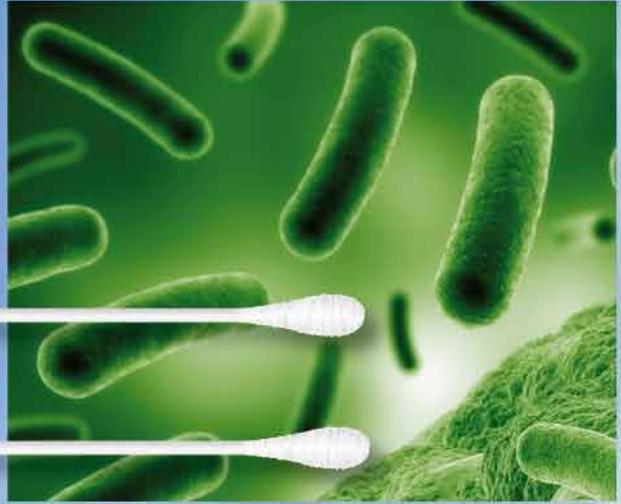
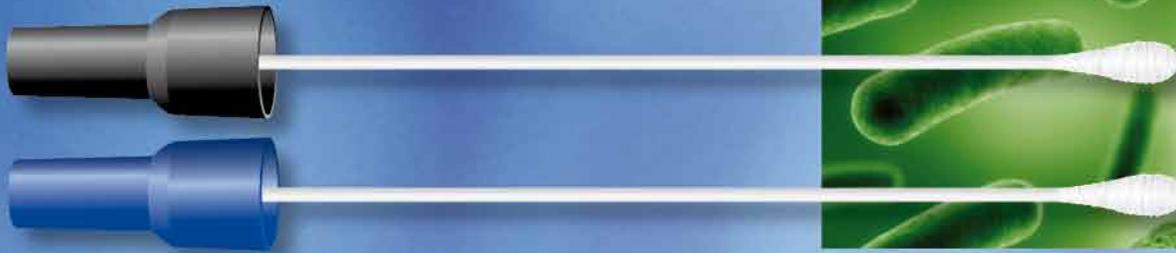


M40-A2
COMPLIANT

Transwab®

World leading transport systems for Aerobes and Anaerobes

Transwab® was the world's first commercially produced self-contained transport swab with semi-solid medium suitable for both aerobes and anaerobes.



Practical and Accurate

Based on the improved maintenance performance offered by Amies' formulation, using non-nutrient inorganic buffering to limit indiscriminate overgrowth, and semi-solid gel to reduce oxygen diffusion, it completely transformed the scope for swab-based specimens. The sterile swab kits had a long shelf life and could be stored at ambient temperatures and so were suitable for use both in major hospitals and in community based practices and clinics.

Reliable maintenance and recovery for all classes of bacteria meant the collected specimen could be sent with confidence to either the local pathology laboratory, or to regional and national reference laboratories knowing that the specimen would continue to represent an accurate indication of the patient's condition.

Charcoal without interference

Transwab® utilises Amies medium with or without charcoal. One of the innovations of Amies' medium was to incorporate charcoal into the medium instead of having it as a powdery coating of the swab bud. This arrangement is much preferred by patients. The role of the charcoal is to adsorb substances within the specimen which could interfere with the survival of fastidious bacteria. Although charcoal particles are visible with Gram-stains, by using a very fine grade, they do not interfere with interpretation.

Meeting the standard

Transwab® has always been known for excellent recoveries of all target organisms. Over the years, however, the emergence of other swab products and transport devices led to a requirement for a standard to allow users to assess and select devices. This resulted in the publication by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) of its Approved Standard M40 (2003) and more recently M40-A2 (2014). For transport swabs this required recovery at room temperature and refrigeration temperature to be measured for ten specified bacteria. When tested using both the swab elution method and the roll-plate method, bacteria should not drop in numbers by more than $3 \log_{10}$ under both holding conditions, or increase by more than $1 \log_{10}$ at refrigeration temperature.

MWE was an early adopter of this standard, and Transwabs® with Amies Medium with or without Charcoal are fully M40-A2 compliant. Full compliance requires that ALL TEN reference strains are recovered after the specified holding period of 48 hours (24 hours for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) at both room temperature and refrigeration temperature.

CLSI M40-A2 also defines acceptable and non-acceptable levels of bioburden for semi-solid medium, to ensure satisfactory performance of Gram-stains, often a vital first stage in any microbiological assessment of a specimen.

Reference:

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). *Quality Control of Microbiological Transport Systems; Approved Standard - Second Edition*. CLSI document M40-A2

Quality first -10 out of 10?

For full compliance CLSI M40-A2 requires bacteriological transport swabs to recover each of the following 10 bacteria after holding at ambient or refrigeration temperature for the stated period.

Species	Strain	Holding Period
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	ATCC® BAA-427	48 hours
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	ATCC® 19615	48 hours
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	ATCC® 6305	48 hours
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	ATCC® 10211	48 hours
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	ATCC® 25285	48 hours
<i>Peptostreptococcus anaerobius</i>	ATCC® 27337	48 hours
<i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	ATCC® 25586	48 hours
<i>Propionibacterium acnes</i>	ATCC® 6919	48 hours
<i>Prevotella melaninogenica</i>	ATCC® 25845	48 hours
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	ATCC® 43069	24 hours

All MWE's Amies Transwab® devices are fully M40-A2 compliant.

Construction

Wood and cotton are never used for MWE Transwab® products. Both of these materials are known to release anti-bacterial fatty acids which can seriously affect the recovery of fastidious organisms. Rayon has long been recognised as the best spun fibre for microbiology specimens with semi-solid media. The open weave bud on MWE Transwab® allows superb release of the collected bacteria ensuring optimum recovery.

For more specialist investigations Transwab® is supplied with appropriate shafts whether straight wire with narrow bud for urethral sampling, or ultrafine twisted wire with minitip bud for nasopharyngeal sampling. Transwab® has colour coded caps to indicate these particular applications.

Safety first

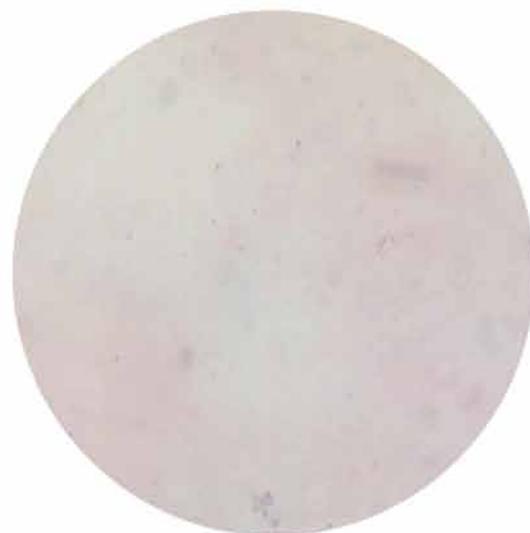
Many of Transwab®'s best known features have been designed with safety in mind, both for the users, and for the microorganisms in the specimen. The "Bell-cap" on

the swab forms a double seal both inside and outside the tube, while the bell-shaped shroud helps to prevent inadvertent contact between the swab and the users fingers. The ultrafine twisted wire used in Pernasal (nasopharyngeal) Transwab® has a true loop at the end of the wire so there are no sharp edges which could injure the patients (often babies and small children) or clinician.

A clear view

Careful selection of raw materials ensures MWE Transwab® has a clear background for clean Gram stains.

Gram stain of MW170 Transwab® with Plain Amies Medium.



Long lasting

MWE Transwab® devices have a shelf-life of two years and can be stored at ambient temperatures

Regulatory

MWE Transwab® devices are CE-marked as Class IIA medical devices, and also as in vitro diagnostic medical devices in conformity to the European Medical Device Directives. MWE is accredited to ISO 13485. Most MWE Transwab® and Transtube® products are FDA cleared. The products are also registered as medical devices in most other countries and trading areas.

Cary Blair Medium

Cary Blair Medium is similar to Amies, but more alkaline and without charcoal. It is mainly used for faecal specimens.

Transtube® with Liquid Medium

Transtube® is a version of Transwab®, but instead of the semi-solid gel medium, there is a foam pad saturated with 1.2ml of liquid medium (Amies or Stuarts). In recent years this system has largely been replaced by Sigma Transwab® using foam or flock tipped swabs and normally a vial containing 1ml of Liquid Amies Medium. (See separate brochure).

Product Code	Description	Swab Application	Pack Size	Cap
Amies Medium				
MW170	Amies Medium Plain	Plastic Shaft	125	Blue
MW171	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	125	Black
MW172P	Amies Medium Plain	Straight aluminium wire shaft	125	Orange
MW173P	Amies Medium Plain	Ultra fine twisted wire	125	Light Blue
MW175P	Amies Medium Plain	Plastic Shaft	100	Blue
MW172C	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Straight aluminium wire shaft	125	Orange
MW173C	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Ultra fine twisted wire	125	Light Blue
MW175C	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	100	Black
Amies Medium Duo Swab				
MW169P	Amies Medium Plain	Duo Plastic Shaft	125	White
MW169C	Amies Medium with Charcoal	Duo Plastic Shaft	125	White
Cary Blair Medium				
MW168	Cary Blair Medium	Plastic shaft	125	Red
Stuart's Medium				
MW166P	Stuart's Medium	Duo Plastic Shaft	125	White
MW165P	Stuart's Medium	Plastic Shaft	125	Blue
MW166C	Stuart's Medium with Charcoal	Duo Plastic Shaft	125	White
MW165C	Stuart's Medium with Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	125	Black
Stuart's Medium was one of the first published formulations. Unlike Amies it uses an organic buffer (calcium glycerophosphate) which can act as a nutrient for bacteria leading to overgrowth. There are some applications where it is specified, but even for many of these Amies' medium will always be the better option.				
Transtube® with Liquid Medium in Pad				
MW167	Liquid Amies Medium without Charcoal	Duo Plastic Shaft	125q	White
MW176	Liquid Amies Medium without Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	125	Red
MW177	Liquid Amies Medium without Charcoal	Straight aluminium wire shaft	125	Orange
MW178	Liquid Amies Medium without Charcoal	Ultra fine twisted wire	125	Light Blue
MW164	Liquid Stuart's Medium without Charcoal	Duo Plastic Shaft	125	White
MW163	Liquid Stuart's Medium without Charcoal	Plastic Shaft	125	Red

Iconic Transwab® design

Colour coded Bell Cap tightly grips the inside and outside of the tube and prevents fingers coming into contact with swab or transport tube.

Generous 5ml fill of semi solid Amies medium provides optimum conditions for fastidious anaerobes (other media available). Low Bio Burden.

Open-weave rayon bud is non-toxic and provides both good absorption and release of specimen.

