



PATIENT GUIDE

Skin and nail collection for fungal examination

A skin or nail culture looks for germs that cause problems with the skin or nails. A sample of your skin, called a skin biopsy, or a small sample of a nail may be taken and is then watched at our laboratory to see if bacteria, viruses or fungi grow. Further tests can be done to identify the specific germ that is causing your problem and this can help your medical provider determine the best treatment for you.

- » Two days prior to the test, stop using all ointments, antiseptics and powders.
- » On the day of the test, the area should be left clean and dry after washing. Please do not apply any creams, deodorants, moisturiser or similar to the area.
- » If nails are to be tested, they should be clean of superfluous dirt and remove nail polish. Do not cut nails prior to the test.



For more information or to find your nearest PathWest collection centre, visit www.pathwest.health.wa.gov.au/locations or call 13 PATH (7284).

**NO
BOOKING
REQUIRED**