TVMDL sets up all fungal cases, including dermatophytes suspects, on multiple types of fungal culture media in order to optimize isolation.

DO SUBMIT: Hair plucked from the periphery of the skin lesion and submit in a clean or sterile container not a bacterial culturette.

DO SUBMIT: Fresh tissue biopsy in red top tube or similar sterile container - NOT floating in saline or broth.

If the patient does not have discrete areas of alopecia, a toothbrush that has been brushed over the patient’s body, can be submitted.

Whenever possible, submit the actual clinical specimen, as DTM plates, jars, or slants, are often non-diagnostic.

Bacterial culturette swabs select for bacteria and make isolating fungal organisms more difficult.

Include pertinent history, including any anti-fungal treatment or pathology results, on the TVMDL Submission Form. Ship samples at ambient temperature. Fungal cultures can take up to 21 days as some organisms are slow growing.