



MEMORANDUM #155

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators,
Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: ^P Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory
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SUBJECT: Changes to Rare Blood Pathogen Culture beginning December 9, 2014

DATE: December 2, 2014

Effective December 9th, 2014, the McLendon Clinical Laboratories are implementing changes to the Rare Blood Pathogen culture. This culture had previously been used to isolate rare organisms including *Brucella*, *Francisella* and HACEK organisms in the bloodstream. HACEK organisms are now recoverable from a routine blood culture using normal incubation times and conditions due to our new blood culture system. *Brucella* and *Francisella* will also be recovered using routine blood cultures in our new system, but may require extended incubation times; please call the Microbiology laboratory (966-4056) if these organisms are in your differential.

We have created a new mould blood culture which will recover dimorphic (endemic) fungi, *Fusarium*, *Trichosporon* and *Malassezia*. The new test name will be Blood Culture Mould and will be searchable by that name in Epic. These cultures will be held for 30 days before being finalized as negative. Positive results will be called to the ordering physician.

Required collection information for all blood cultures is on page #2. The specimens may be collected by Phlebotomy or by Nursing Staff (designated at collection), however **Isolator and Myco/F Lytic blood culture tubes are NOT stocked by CD**, but are available directly from Phlebotomy (966-2446) or, after hours, from Microbiology (966-4056).

(PLEASE SEE PAGE #2 FOR COLLECTION INFORMATION)

| Culture Type | Patient Population | Bottle Types |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Culture, Blood, Routine | All Patients not Meeting Criteria Below NOTE: This culture will recover HACEK organisms with no change in collection or incubation conditions. If <i>Brucella</i> or <i>Francisella</i> are in the differential, extended incubation may be required. Please contact the Microbiology Lab (966-4056) | BD BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F (Grey Cap/Blue Ring) (Optimal Volume 8-10 mL) Lawson# 052346 (UOM box of 50 bottles) + BD BACTEC Anaerobic Lytic/10 (Purple Cap/Maroon Ring) (Optimal Volume 8-10 mL) Lawson# 052347 (UOM box of 50 bottles) |
| Culture, Blood, AFB | HIV+ patients with CD ₄ Count <100; Suspected MAC infections | BD BACTEC Myco/F Lytic (White Cap/Red Ring) (Optimal Volume 1-5 mL) |
| Culture, Blood, Pediatric | Patients Weighing ≤40 kg | BD BACTEC Plus aerobic/F (Grey Cap/Blue Ring) (Optimal Volume 8-10 mL) For Patients <20 Kg, 1-4 mL is acceptable For Patients 20-40 Kg, 4-8 mL in one bottle. For Patients >40 Kg (See Routine above) |
| Blood Culture Mould | Suspected infections due to dimorphic (endemic) fungi, <i>Fusarium</i> sp., <i>Trichosporon</i> sp., <i>Malassezia furfur</i> (Specify at Collection) | Isolator Yellow Top (10 mL Volume) + BD BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F (Grey Cap/Blue Ring) (Optimal Volume 8-10 mL) Lawson# 052346 (UOM box of 50 bottles) + BD BACTEC Myco/F Lytic (White Cap/Red Ring) (Optimal Volume 1-5 mL) |

For more information, consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website (https://labs.unchealthcare.org/labstestinfo/cult_tests/blood.htm) or contact the Microbiology Laboratory at 919-966-4056.