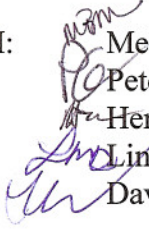




UNC
HEALTH CARE

MEMORANDUM #132

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

FROM:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular Microbiology Laboratory
Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory
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DATE: September 23, 2010

SUBJECT: PNA FISH *Candida* Laboratory Testing on Positive Blood Cultures

Beginning Monday, September 27, 2010, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will be using the Yeast Traffic Light PNA FISH test to rapidly identify the species of *Candida* from positive blood cultures. This will allow targeted use of antifungal agents for individual patients based on likely susceptibility. Testing will automatically be performed on all positive blood cultures with a Gram stain consistent with *Candida*. Results are available within 90 minutes after the blood culture is positive. Testing will be performed on first time positives and will only be repeated after 7 days of the original positive blood culture.

The physician will continue to be notified when blood cultures are first identified as positive with yeast by Gram stain. Once the species of *Candida* has been determined by PNA FISH, the Microbiology Lab will notify Pharmacy of the results which will also be displayed in WebCis. A pharmacist will then make a treatment recommendation to the physician based on the species of *Candida* identified in the blood culture. This process will allow for earlier switch to targeted antifungal therapy in patients with candidemia. Culture confirmation and susceptibility testing will still be performed per routine laboratory protocol. In general, this testing requires an additional 2-3 days.

If you have questions regarding this memo please contact Dr. Melissa Miller at 966-3723.