Memorandum – Microbiology #254

To: UNC Medical Center Providers, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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Subject: **Rapid testing on Positive Blood Cultures for Gram-Positive Organisms**

Effective February 2, 2026, the UNC Medical Center Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will begin using a new assay that rapidly identifies multiple Gram-positive organisms and associated resistance genes from positive blood cultures (DiaSorin Liaison Plex, Gram-Positive Blood Culture Assay, BC-P). This test replaces the Luminex Verigene BC-GP test, which was used on positive blood cultures for Gram-positive cocci only. Details on the new assay can be found online at BC-P Test Information. The BC-P assay is FDA-cleared and will identify:

Organisms		Resistance genes
Bacillus spp.	*Staphylococcus lugdunensis*	*mecA/mecC*[1]
Listeria spp.	*Streptococcus spp.*	*vanA*[2]
Enterococcus faecalis	*Streptococcus agalactiae*	*vanB*[2]
Enterococcus faecium	*Streptococcus anginosus* group	
Staphylococcus spp.	*Streptococcus pneumoniae*[3]	
Staphylococcus aureus	*Streptococcus pyogenes*	
Staphylococcus epidermidis		

[1]Resistance genes for *methicillin/nafcillin* (*mecA*/*mecC*) are only reported if one of the following organisms is detected: *Staphylococcus* spp., *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, or *S. lugdunensis*.
[2]Resistance genes for *vancomycin* (*vanA*, *vanB*) are only reported if *E. faecalis* or *E. faecium* is detected.
[3]Some *Streptococcus mitis/oralis* strains may result in a positive test for the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* target.

See here for known cross-reactivity with other species.

Testing will be performed automatically on a patient's first positive blood culture with a Gram stain of Gram-positive cocci or Gram-positive bacilli. It will only be repeated after 7 days if the Gram stain result is the same. Results will be available in EPIC ~3 hours after the Gram stain

result. Culture confirmation and susceptibility testing will still be performed per routine laboratory protocol.

Additional information can be found on the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website: Blood Culture Information. Questions not answered by the website can be directed to the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1805 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.