

To: Columbia St. Mary's Physicians and Clinicians

From: North Shore Pathology Group  
Columbia St. Mary's Laboratory Leadership

Subject: Urine Culture- Change in reporting

Date: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

**Effective 11/5/2019**, the Laboratory Microbiology Department will be adjusting the urine culture specimen collection, testing and resulting to align with the Ascension National Urine Culture Standard Procedure. The procedure is based on accepted standards from The American Society for Microbiology. The standardization is pivotal to streamline procedures among ministries, ensure best microbiologic practices, and optimize costs. Changes in workup and reporting include:

For noninvasive specimens (indwelling or suprapubic catheter and midstream clean catch):

- *Group B Streptococcus* will be reported in any amount for women of childbearing age (14-50), otherwise only if colony count is pure or predominant in all other patients.
- The following comment will be added for Group B Streptococcus in women of childbearing age when colonies are not pure or predominant: "Group B Streptococcus (GBS) isolated but in amounts too small to suggest group B Strep urinary tract infection. Any growth of group B Strep in urine culture is always reported for women of childbearing age as GBS presence indicates possible vaginal colonization."
- The following comment will be added when Group B Streptococcus is pure or predominant: "Group B Streptococci are susceptible to ampicillin, penicillin, and cefazolin, but may be resistant to clindamycin and/or erythromycin. Contact Microbiology (585-1127) if the patient is allergic to penicillin and clindamycin and/or erythromycin results are needed."
- Urogenital or skin microbiota that is at least 10 times less than the uropathogens is ignored for the purposes of workup. If the microbiota is equal to or greater than the uropathogens, the following comment will be added: "Multiple bacterial morphotypes present. Suggest appropriate recollection with timely delivery to the laboratory, if clinically indicated."
- *Gardenella vaginalis* will only be reported if the colony count is 10 times the urogenital flora.
- *Aerococcus urinae* will only be reported if the colony count is 10 times the urogenital flora.
- *Corynebacterium urealyticum* will only be reported if the colony count is  $\geq 100,000$  CFU/mL and if the colony count is 10 times the urogenital flora.
- The presumptive identification for *Candida albicans* will change from *Candida albicans* to *Candida albicans/dubliniensis*.

Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Ascension Urine Culture Standard Procedure or the Urine Culture Specimen Collection Standards, please contact Sarah Cliff or Dr. Martinez-Torres at the numbers listed below:

G. Martinez-Torres, M.D.  
Medical Director-Microbiology &  
Molecular Laboratories  
414-585-1448  
[Guillermo.Martinez-Torres@ascension.org](mailto:Guillermo.Martinez-Torres@ascension.org)

Sarah Cliff, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Microbiology Technical Specialist  
414-585-1935  
[Sarah.Cliff@ascension.org](mailto:Sarah.Cliff@ascension.org)