

MOBILE MICROBIOLOGY
ROUTINE CULTURE PLATING PROTOCOL
 Pathology Laboratory / IMMC - Des Moines, IA

REV 06 05-31-2018

SPECIMEN SOURCE / SITE	INCUB TEMP	ENVIRON	MEDIA	GRAM STAIN	COMMENTS
Positive Blood Culture Bottles	37° C	CO ₂ / ANA	BAP, CHOC, MAC BRU	YES	incubate BRU in Abag, other plates in CO ₂ environment
Catheter Tip Culture non-urinary tract catheters	37° C	Non-CO ₂	BAP, THIO	NO	aseptically cut tip to 4-cm, roll across plate surface, place tip in THIO broth
Ear, Eye Culture conjunct, intraocular, tympanocentesis	37° C	CO ₂	BAP, CHOC, MAC	YES	add T/M if GC isolation required
Environmental Culture inanimate objects	37° C	Non-CO ₂	BAP	NO	up to 5 sources per culture
Genital Culture cervix, urethra, testicle, epididymis, vagina	37° C	CO ₂	BAP, CHOC, T/M	YES	consider BD Affirm molecular test as a replacement (Eswab)
Genital - Grp B Strep Culture (PCR) vagina, rectum	N/A	N/A	* SUBMIT SWAB ONLY *	NO	Eswab or standard collection swab in bacterial transport medium
Gonococcus Screen Only genital, throat, rectum	37° C	CO ₂	CHOC, T/M	MALE GENIT	should be collected and plated at bedside
MRSA Screen any non-urine source	37° C	Non-CO ₂	CHRMRS	NO	culture screens only for MRSA, if other pathogens desired order routine culture
Respiratory - Upper N/P, nose, sinus (non-surg)	37° C	CO ₂	BAP, CHOC, MAC	NO	
Respiratory - Lower bronch wash, sputum, trach, lung	37° C	CO ₂	BAP, CHOC, MAC	YES	screen expect. sputums for acceptability prior to plating - reject unacceptable
Stool Culture (PCR)	N/A	N/A	* SUBMIT IN TRANSPORT MEDIA*	NO	see stool comment on reverse side
Throat Culture pharynx, throat	37° C	ANA / Abag	SSA	NO	for back-up culture to negative rapid antigen test
Tissue Culture		wrap tissue in sterile gauze moistened w/sterile saline - submit in sterile container for homogenization			plate with 0.001-ml quantitative loop
Urine Culture clean catch, catheter	37° C	Non-CO ₂	BAP, MAC	NO	
VRE Screen any non-urine source	N/A	N/A	* SUBMIT SWAB ONLY *	NO	culture screens only for VRE, if other pathogens desired order routine culture
Wound / Body Fluid Aerobic Culture	37° C	Non-CO ₂	BAP, CHOC, MAC	YES	add CHOC agar (CO ₂) if respiratory, genital, or sterile body site (joint, CSF, etc.) centrifuge fluids 2,000 rpm for 15 min - plate sediment
Wound / Body Fluid Anaerobic Culture ORDER IN CONJUNCTION W/AEROBIC CULTURE	37° C	ANA / Abag	BRU, LKV, PEA BRU only for sterile body sites, joint replacement, etc.	NO	centrifuge fluids 2,000 rpm for 15 min - plate sediment bowel, bronch wash, expectorated sputum, vaginal, superficial wounds are unacceptable for anaerobic culture

KEY TO PLATING MEDIA

<u>ABBRV</u>	<u>MEDIA</u>	<u>ABBRV</u>	<u>MEDIA</u>
BAP	Blood Agar Plate	LKV	Laked KV Agar
BRU	Brucella Agar Plate	MAC	MacConkey Agar
CHOC	Chocolate Agar Plate	PEA	PEA Agar Plate
CHRMRS	CHROM MRSA	SSA	Strep Selective Agar
ENT	Enterococcosel Agar	THB	Todd-Hewitt Broth
		THIO	Thioglycollate Broth
Abag	Anaerobic Bio-Bag		
CfjBag	Cfj Bio-Bag		

Blood Culture Notes:

- * Adult blood culture draw is 20-ml divided between: Aerobic Bottle 10-ml & Anaerobic Bottle (REDOX 1,2)
- * If less than 10-ml obtained, submit only Aerobic (REDOX1)
- * Blood culture bottles should be left at room temperature
- * Isolation of special pathogens (fungus, mycobacteria, etc.) require other collection devices which may be requested in advance of the draw or blood should be submitted in a 10-ml yellow top Vacutainer SPS collection tube

General Notes:

- * Any question about specimen plating / isolation of special pathogens should be directed to Pathology Laboratory *prior* to specimen processing
- * It is strongly recommended that you perform Gram stains on those cultures indicated (if Gram stains are performed at your facility). Include a copy of the Gram stain result with the culture plates if at all possible
- * **Requests for anaerobic culture MUST be accompanied by a request for an aerobic culture**
- * Urine Culture Colony Counts: Pathology Laboratory now reports colony count ranges (<10,000 10,000 - 100,000 >100,000) on positive urine cultures. In general, colony counts <100,000 in adult patients (excluding pregnant females) do not reflect a true infectious process. Lower colony counts, however, may be significant in some patients. Correlation with other clinical data is advised.
- * LEGIONELLA CULTURES are performed at Pathology Laboratory - submit the specimen to Pathology Laboratory for processing
- * If you request to "screen for yeast", in addition to the routine culture, submit the original specimen with the routine culture plates