

Blood Culture (Positive – Referred) Identification and Susceptibility Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Blood Culture (Positive – Referred) – Identification and Susceptibility

MDL Test Code

POSBLD_CULT

Ask at Order Questions

Gram stain result

Specimen Source

Positive blood culture bottle

Specimen Requirements

Container/Tube

- Blood culture bottle(s) that have been flagged positive by the client's instrumentation.

AND/OR

- Culture on a suitable agar (solid) medium plate
- NOTE: For clients that are able, plates should be subbed and submitted with the bottle(s) to expedite results.

Specimen Volume (minimum)

N/A

Sample Stability Time

Stability varies with the organism; STAT delivery is recommended

Transport/Storage Conditions

Ambient (20 – 25°C)

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

Must be a blood culture bottle(s) that have been flagged positive by the client's instrumentation, please include the initial gram stain result from the client site.

Performance

Days Performed

Daily; Monday – Sunday

Report Available (TAT) – (Once received at MDL)

1 – 4 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Identification methods may include any of the following: conventional biochemical testing, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry, and commercial identification panels. Genus and species are reported on anaerobic bacterial isolates whenever possible.
- Susceptibility testing may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disc diffusion.

Reference Values

No growth

Cautions

- The stability time of isolate in a positive bottle is organism-dependent. The best practice is to subculture positive bottles as soon as possible and/or transport bottle(s) to MDL as soon as possible.
- Certain isolates when only isolated from one culture set can be indicative of contaminants.