

Body Fluid Culture Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Body Fluid Culture – Aerobic, Anaerobic, Gram Stain

MDL Test Code

BFL_CULT

Ask at Order Questions

N/A

Specimen Source

- Synovial
- Peritoneal
- Pericardial
- Pleural
- Other (indicate specific source)

Specimen Requirements

Container/Tube

Sterile Container

Specimen Volume (minimum)

0.5mL

Sample Stability Time

48 hours

Transport/Storage Conditions

Ambient (20 – 25°C); maintain at room temperature

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

- Varies depending on the fluid type. Collected by a healthcare provider using sterile technique. Contamination with normal flora from skin (or other body surfaces) should be avoided.
- **Do NOT** submit syringe with needle attached! If submitting a syringe, remove the needle, expel air and cap syringe.
- This order is reserved for 'normally sterile body fluids', those fluids aspirated from an abscess and/or collected from a drainage system should be ordered as 'Wound Culture – Aerobic, Anaerobic, Gram Stain' (WNDAA_CULT).

Performance

Days Performed

Daily; Monday – Sunday

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

4 – 5 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Conventional aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture techniques with selective and non-selective media.
- Identification methods (when appropriate) 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.
- Susceptibility testing (when appropriate) may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disk diffusion.

Reference Values

No growth of pathogens

Cautions

- False-negative cultures can be caused by low numbers of organisms, prior antimicrobial treatment, or the fastidious nature of the infective organism.
- False-positive cultures can result from contamination of the specimen with skin microbiota.
- This order is generally reserved for those body fluids normally considered 'sterile', outside of cerebral spinal fluid and urine, which have their own orders.