

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 SDQVx

Susceptibility testing (when appropriate) may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disk GLIIXLR

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.