Test Name: MISCELLANEOUS CULTURE AND GRAM STAIN

General Information

Lab Order Codes: MMC

CPT Codes:
- 87070 – Culture, bacterial; any other source except urine, blood or stool, with isolation and presumptive identification of isolates
- 87205 – Smear, primary source with interpretation; Gram or Giemsa stain for bacteria, fungi or cell types
The following testing may be added if appropriate based on findings for organism identification (multiple additions are possible if more than one organism is identified) and to aid in patient treatment management.
- 87075 – Culture, bacterial; any source, except blood, anaerobic with isolation and presumptive identification, each isolate
- 87076 – Anaerobic isolate, additional methods required for definitive identification of isolates
- 87077 – Aerobic isolate, additional methods required for definitive identification, each isolate (if appropriate)
- 87106 – Culture, fungi, definitive identification, each organism, yeast (if appropriate)
- 87107 – Culture, mold, definitive identification, each organism, mold (if appropriate)
- 87147 – Culture, typing; immunologic method, other than immunofluorescence (e.g., agglutination grouping), per antiserum (if appropriate)
- 87184 – Susceptibility studies, disk method, per plate (if appropriate)
- 87185 – Enzyme detection (e.g., beta lactamase), per enzyme (if appropriate)
- 87186 – Susceptibility studies, microdilution or agar dilution, each multi-antimicrobial, per plate (if appropriate)
- 87206 – Smear, primary source with interpretation, fluorescent and/or acid fast stain for bacteria, fungi or cell types (if appropriate)

Test Includes: Gram stain, culture for aerobes. All aerobic organisms will be identified.

Logistics

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology

Phone Numbers:
- MIN Lab: 612-813-5866
- STP Lab: 651-220-6555

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: Preliminary report available at 1 day, final report within 2 - 5 days.
**Special Instructions:** Specimen site and date/time of collection are required for processing.

**Specimen**

**Specimen Type:** Shunt tubing and other specimen types that would not be considered an abscess, body fluid, skin or wound source. Please refer to separate listings for Abscess Culture, Body Fluid Culture, Skin Culture, or Wound Culture.

**Container:** Sterile container or swab transport system

**Transport/Storage:** Transport to the Microbiology Laboratory immediately at room temperature.

**Sample Rejection:** Specimen with a transit time exceeding 2 hours after collection; specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container; improperly labeled specimen; insufficient volume; external contamination. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.

**Interpretive**

**Methodology:** Culture

**Reference Range:** No growth

**Alert Value:**
- Significant isolates from a sterile site will be called to the physician or patient’s nurse.
- Gram-negative rods identified as ESBL or Carbapenemase producers will be called to the physician or patient’s nurse. Infection Prevention will be notified.
- If MRSA is isolated for the first time, and the patient location is not Emergency department, the result will be called to the physician or patient’s nurse.

**Limitations:** If anaerobes are suspected, specifically order Anaerobic Culture.

Any specimen submitted for microbial culture can be contaminated with colonizing organisms that are not contributing to disease. Organisms most likely to contaminate specimens of this type include, but are not limited to, Corynebacterium sp and coagulase-negative staphylococci. However, these organisms may be pathogenic in certain settings.

**References:**


**Updates:**

3/7/2011: CPT Updates
6/19/2012: Updated Alert Value message
11/14/2018: Updated information on anaerobes.