Clinical Microbiology Test and Requisition Changes
Urine Culture Investigations – Reminder to Include Clinical Justification

Change Effective: March 1, 2021

Background Information:
Shared Health Diagnostic Services (Lab) have established new testing protocols to reflect best practice and testing algorithms. The Clinical Microbiology Requisition has been revised to enable these changes.

As a reminder, when completing a Clinical Microbiology requisition, please consult the Clinical Microbiology Requisition – Visual Aide to ensure required information is included on the requisition. The omission of required information will result in testing delays or sample rejection and the necessity for recollection of a new sample.

Clinical Practice Change:
On June 1, 2021, Clinical Microbiology began rejecting urines for routine culture when the completed requisition did not include clinical justification. This memo is a reminder that clinical justification MUST be provided on the requisition for urine culture to be performed (the ordering practitioner MUST check off one or more of the clinical justification boxes under “urinary tract specimens” on the requisition). Alternative clinical justifications provided or written outside these will not be considered valid. For urine cultures that are rejected because clinical justification was inadvertently missed, the ordering practitioner (or delegate) may contact the laboratory within 48 hours to provide this information and request processing of the sample.

References/Resources:
• https://apps.sbgh.mb.ca/labmanual/document/requisitions

Patient Impact:
• Improve appropriateness of urine culture investigations

System Improvements:
• Reduce testing that does not add diagnostic value
• Reduce form completion and registration errors

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### Required information:
- Location of patient (ward/nursing unit)
- Name of authorized ordering professional
- Physician 24/7 critical results contact number

If a copy of a report is required for another physician, the physician's full name, location (address) and Fax number must be provided.

### Clinical Microbiology Requisition – Visual Aide

**Required information:**
- Patient Demographics:
  - All patient demographics must be present and legible
  - Patient first/last name
  - DOB
  - PHIN or other unique identifier

**Required information:**
- Date, time and initials of individual collecting sample must be provided.

**Required information:**
- Test orders: Check off all tests as clinically ordered.
  - Use one requisition per sample only
  - Place an “X” in the box that describes the specimen being sent and the test being ordered. Indicate the site if applicable, e.g. wound swab (specimen source), of left leg (specimen site) for bacterial culture-aerobic (test ordered)
  - Failure to clearly indicate the specific test(s) being requested will result in testing delays and potentially in sample rejection and the necessity for recollection of a new sample.

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### Label for Specimen:
Labels for specimens can be separate adhesive labels which have been addressographed. If completed manually, minimum information that must be provided includes:
- Patient last name, first name
- PHIN # or equivalent
- Specimen source