Gram Stain Control

METHOD   Control slide of Gram Positive Cocci (Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 25923) and Gram Negative Rod (Escherichia coli ATCC 25922) will be run as controls with the Gram Stain Reagents. Control results are documented on Patient Gram Stain log.

SAFETY   All specimens, reagents and controls should be handled as though capable of transmitting infectious diseases. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when running patient samples or performing scheduled maintenance. Refer to: Policy and Procedures Safety Manual *Infection Control and Procedures.*

MATERIALS   Gram QC Slides:
ATS 1541 *E. coli*: Closest to the strain derivatives of ATCC Strain 25922
ATS 1498 *S. Aureus*: Closest to the strain derivatives of ATCC Strain 25923
Reagent Components:
 Gram stain slides contain substrates (bacterial suspensions) at optimal concentrations (CFU/ml) necessary for a positive and a negative Gram stain reaction.

Stability: The slides are stable to the stated expiration date when stored at room temperature.

FREQUENCY   Control slide is run daily.

PROCEDURE   Refer to procedure Gram Slide Stainer Aerospray

Gram Stain Control, Continued

RESULTS   The Gram Stain Control slides consist of two "wells". The positive controls consist of staphylococcus aureus and the negative control consists of Escherichia Coli. Staphylococcus aureus should appear as deep violet, gram-positive cocci, while the Escherichia coli should appear as pink, gram negative rods.

Remedial Action if QC system fails to meet acceptable criteria.   If a control slide does not stain as expected, then patient results may not be reported. Check stain expirations and equipment and repeat patient and QC slides. Notify a manager if QC continues to fail.

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HISTORY PAGE

Type of Change: New Major, Minor	Description of Change(s)	Name of Responsible Person/Date	Operations Director, Area Laboratory Review/Date	CLIA Laboratory Director Review/Date	Date Change Implemented
Minor	Reviewed. 1) Updated format. 2) Added Safety section.	Julius Salomon 9/29/14			
Minor	Regional Template revision	Ruby Co 6/29/18			
Major	Frequency of running the control slide changed to Daily.	Ruby Co 8/15/18			