PURPOSE: To check the sterility of the saline used to prepare organisms for Vitek 2 and manual susceptibility testing. To be performed each Monday with weekly Vitek and KB QC testing.

REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:

- Thioglycolate broth
- Sterile saline (0.45% and 0.9%)

SUPPLIES:

- Dispensette
- Dispensette mounting tool
- Bottle-brush
- Towel
- Steris steam autoclave and supplies

SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Containment Level 2 facilities, equipment, and operational practices for work involving infectious or potentially infectious materials or cultures.

- Lab gown must be worn when performing activities with potential pathogens.
- Gloves must be worn when direct skin contact with infected materials is unavoidable.
- Eye protection must be used where there is a known or potential risk of exposure to splashes.
- All procedures that may produce aerosols, or involve high concentrations or large volumes should be conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC).
- The use of needles, syringes, and other sharp objects should be strictly limited.

All patient specimens are assumed to be potentially infectious. Universal precautions must be followed. Since viable micro-organisms are used, all cultures must be handled with appropriate precautions. All equipment in contact with cultures should be decontaminated by appropriate methods

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

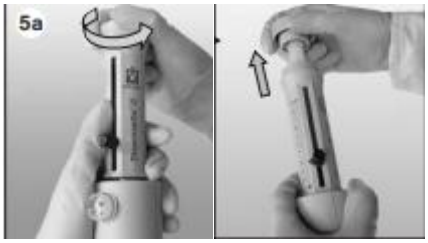
Step	Action
Weekly Dispensette Sterility Check	
1	A standing order has been set up in the LIS: • Patient last name: **TEST.** • Patient first name: **MICRO STERILITY.** • **CXENV** will be automatically ordered. • Collect, receive and plate order. • In Micro OE comment, state source of saline (KB Dispensette or Vitek Dispensette).
2	Label 2 Thioglycolate broth tubes, one for the KB Dispensette order and one for the Vitek Dispensette order.
3	Dispense 3mL of saline into each of the THIO broths.
4	Place broths in the Saline Sterility rack in the O_2 incubator.
5	On MIC70110.1 - Maintenance Record – Vitek 2, check off and initial that saline sterility was performed.
6	Read broths daily for 3 days and observe for signs of growth.

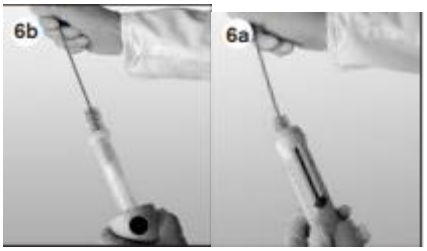
INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

Step	Action
Interpretation of sterility specimens	
1	**If THIO broth remains clear (no growth):** • Record “No Growth” results daily in LIS. • After 3 days, report “No Growth After 3 Days” and finalize.
2	**If THIO broth turns cloudy (growth):** • Record “Cloudy-AUTOCLAVE dispenser ^CLAVE”. • Result ^CLAVE with date dispensette was autoclaved and initials. • Report “Cloudy-AUTOCLAVE dispenser” and finalize. • Discard saline bottle and follow instructions below to clean the dispensette. • Assemble new dispensette, which are stored under the Vitek 2.

1. Piston
2. Volume adjustment knob
3. Discharge tube
4. Discharge tube screw cap
5. Telescopic filling tube

CLEANING THE DISPENSETTE:

Step	Action
Cleaning the dispensette	
1	It is important that the dispensette is cleaned before it is autoclaved to prevent damage from occurring.
2	Remove the dispensette from saline bottle and screw onto a bottle of sterile water. Rinse the dispensette several times by completely filling and emptying it.
3	Remove dispensette from sterile water and discharge any remaining liquid.
4	Pull out the telescopic filing tube: 
5	Use mounting tool to unscrew the filing valve: 
6	Loosen piston. Hold the housing securely and unscrew the piston completely by turning it to the right. Carefully pull out the piston. **Do not remove the housing!** 

7	Clean piston and cylinder with a bottle-brush. If necessary remove deposits at the edge of the glass cylinder taking care not to scratch the interior of the cylinder. 
8	Flush all parts with sterile water and allow parts to dry.
9	Insert the piston completely into the cylinder.
10	Check that the filling valve is securely seated and tightened using the mounting tool. 
11	Reassemble the dispensette.
12	Place dispensette and mounting tool on a towel. Ensure parts do not come into contact with metallic surfaces.
13	Autoclave in the Steris steam autoclave at 250°F for 50 minutes.
14	After cycle is complete, allow dispensette to cool for approximately 2 hours.
15	Inspect all parts for any damage.
16	Once dispensette is cooled and inspected for damage, place back into box and store underneath Vitek 2 instrument.

REFERENCES:

- Brand Dispensette Manual, 2015/3

REVISION HISTORY:

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	22NOV17	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	06OCT19	Updated to reflect new steam autoclave	L. Steven