

Microbiology Laboratory Staff Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2020

12:15

Present: Laura S, Laura G, Moses, Solomon, David and Sally

1. Calls for OT:

- Laura S wonders how much notice people would like if there is OT shift available.
- Everyone said 2 hours before would be good.

2. Batching NML:

- Laura S thinks it would be a good idea to batch isolates to NML.
- Everyone agrees.
- The “batch” will be sent out on Mondays.
- Isolates will be frozen until being sent. Laura S will make a rack for this purpose in the freezer.
- The wound bench technologist will sub out the isolates on Sunday to be sent on Monday.
- Ensure you freeze the isolate for storage and freeze an additional tube for send out.
- We will try this and see how it goes.
- Reminder that all the patient information on the label needs to be blacked out. NML does not use patient names or healthcare numbers. They only use our accession number, DOB and sex of the patient.

3. APL:

- ProvLab is not called Alberta Precision Laboratories or APL.
- Laura S wanted to share this with everyone so they are aware.
- Most people still calling it ProvLab but eventually this will change.

4. Calling/copying and documenting reportable organisms:

- Recent case of invasive GAS where the patient died.
- Laura G worked on this specimen and ensured she called HPU1, ordering location and copied HPU1 with these results and documented all this in the LIS.
- Important example of why we need to make sure we phone and copy HPU1 as required.
- If this had not been done correctly it would have come back to us.
- NML sends copies of reports to HPU1 and they match them with our reports. If they get a report from NML and don't have an LIS report they will follow up with us and know we did not report correctly.

5. Comments in the LIS:

- There are different types of comments in the LIS.
- Isolate, media, OE, test and drug.
- Each type of comment is available in the corresponding area in the LIS.
- If you cannot find a comment from the ASTM in the LIS you are probably looking in the wrong place.
- Laura S has tried to have all comments from the ASTM put into the LIS.
- If you cannot find a comment, tell Laura S so she can help you find it or enter it into the LIS.

6. Pneumatic tube:

- Microbiology has been asked to open the tubes that come into the lab.
- Micro staff do not understand why they need to open the tube when there are MLA's at the front. Are we supposed to do it then too?
- Microbiology staff are unsure what to do with the samples in the tube. Some core lab staff will take the biohazard bag but some will not and then the micro staff is stuck trying to deal with samples they have no knowledge of.
- Micro staff were first told to send down samples while on rounds in the tube. Then they are told not to do this and were "yelled at" for doing it. Now we are being told we do need to do this. Not consistent and micro is unsure of what to do.
- Micro staff need to be clearly instructed what the process is and needs to be consistent with all staff. We cannot adjust the process based on who is working in the core lab.
- Clear expectations need to be established for this process.

7. Phone calls in core lab:

- Microbiology staff have been criticized for not answering the phone in the core lab.
- Problem is we do not usually know the answer. Then the micro person needs to find out the answer or direct the call to the person who can answer it. This wastes time for the micro staff and to the person phoning.
- We do not have time to do their job and our job. No one comes and answers our phone for us.

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- Micro staff feel that when we try to do the core lab's job for them we really are just interrupting them and disrupting the process.

8. Morning rounds:

- Process is very inconsistent and varies depending on core lab staff.
- Some core staff divide the req's up evenly by number and others all go together.
- When the req's are divided up, sometimes equal number of req does not mean equal amount of work. Depends on floor and patient difficulty.
- Micro staff are told what to do during rounds and they listen to the core lab staff.
- Core lab staff are quicker at collections than micro and they complain to each other and micro staff about how "slow" we are.
- Micro staff will go back up and help if others are still upstairs but most core lab staff do not do this. They do their required amount and don't help out anyone else. This is not team work.

9. Blood cultures collected by Core Lab:

- Not all core lab staff are bringing blood cultures to micro after they are collected and are just putting them in the micro bin in specimen receiving area.
- Some staff do bring them back.
- This was already discussed during a staff meeting and if someone collects a blood culture they are to bring it back to microbiology to maintain the quality of the sample.

10.Roundtable:

- There is a goodbye BBQ for Sally on June 27 at Amy's house.