Title: MIC32000-Oral Culture Type: Laboratory Services Program SOP

Issuing Authority: Director of Health Services

Next Review Date:

Policy Number:
Date Approved:

PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedure - Laboratory Services

Title: MIC32000 - Oral Culture Policy Number:

Program Name: Laboratory Services

Applicable Domain: Lab, DI and Pharmacy Services

Additional Domain(s):

Effective Date: Next Review Date:

Issuing Authority: Date Approved:

Director of Health Services

Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: N/A

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE:**

Mouth swabs are usually obtained to identify oral yeast infections (thrush). Thrush is a common infection of the mouth and tongue caused by the yeast *Candida albicans*. Thrush appears as white patches that look like cottage cheese or milk curds.

### **PURPOSE/RATIONALE:**

To determine the presence or absence of yeast (thrush) in oral specimens.

### SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This procedure applies to Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) processing specimens for oral culture.

#### **SAMPLE INFORMATION:**

Туре	Swab  • Amie's with or without charcoal	
Source	Mouth or tongue	
Stability	<ul> <li>If the sample is received in the laboratory and processed greater than 48 hours from collection:</li> <li>Add specimen quality comment: "Delayed transport may adversely affect pathogen recovery"</li> </ul>	
Storage Requirements	Room temperature	
Criteria for rejection	<ol> <li>Unlabeled/mislabeled swabs</li> <li>Specimen container label does not match patient identification on requisition</li> <li>Duplicate specimens obtained with same collection method within 24 hours</li> </ol>	

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## **REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:**

Sabouraud Dextrose (SAB) agar

#### **SUPPLIES:**

- Disposable inoculation needles
- Microscope slides
- Sterile saline
- Wooden sticks
- Coverslips

### **EQUIPMENT**

- Biosafety cabinet
- Vitek 2 and supplies

### **SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

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

- Ensure that appropriate hang hygiene practices be used.
- 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 when there is a known or potential risk of exposure of 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. Routine Practices 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.

# **QUALITY CONTROL:**

Refer to Test Manual for reagent quality control procedures

## PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

Step	Action	
Processing specimens for oral culture		
1	<ul> <li>In the biosafety cabinet:</li> <li>Inoculate SAB with the swab</li> <li>Ensure all surfaces of swab make contact with the agar</li> <li>Streak for isolated growth using a disposable inoculation needle</li> <li>Write on the plate the date of the 48-hour read</li> </ul>	
2	Incubate the media:  • Place SAB on the workbench	

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## **INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:**

Step	Action		
1	<ul> <li>Observe SAB plate at 48 hours</li> <li>Examine for white, creamy colonies resembling yeast</li> </ul>		
	IF	THEN	
2	Colonies resembling yeast NOT seen	<ul><li>Workup complete</li><li>Yeast not isolated</li></ul>	
	Colonies resembling yeast seen	Perform wet prep	
	IF	THEN	
3	Wet prep NEGATIVE	<ul><li>Workup complete</li><li>Yeast not isolated</li></ul>	
	Wet prep POSITIVE	Perform Vitek 2 YST card	

### **REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:**

IF	REPORT
Yeast not isolated	Report: "No Yeast Isolated"
Yeast Isolated,	Report: "Candida albicans"
Candida albicans	List quantitation as "Isolated"
Yeast Isolated,	Report: "Yeast (NOT Candida albicans)"
not Candida albicans	<ul> <li>List quantitation as "Isolated"</li> </ul>

#### **REFERENCES:**

- Leber, A. (2016). Clinical microbiology procedures handbook. (4<sup>th</sup>ed.) Washington, D.C.: ASM Press
- Jorgensen J.H., Pfaller M.A., Carroll K.C., Funke G., Landry M.L., Richter S.S., Warnock D.W. (2015). Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, D.C: ASM Press

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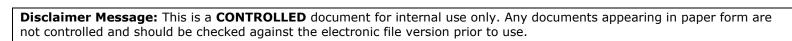
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APPROVAL:		
Date		_

## **REVISION HISTORY:**

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	06 Nov 17	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	04 Dec 18	Updated to include new Vitek 2 instrument	L. Steven
3.0	11 Jan 21	Procedure reviewed and added to NTHSSA policy template	L. Steven



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