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

Issuing Authority: Director of Health Services Policy Number:

Next Review Date:

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	 If the sample is received in the laboratory and processed greater than 48 hours from collection: Add specimen quality comment: "Delayed transport ma adversely affect pathogen recovery" 					
Storage Requirements	Room temperature					
Criteria for rejection	 Unlabeled/mislabeled swabs Specimen container label does not match patient identification on requisition Duplicate specimens obtained with same collection method within 24 hours 					

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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 hand 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
Proces	ssing specimens for oral culture
1	 In the biosafety cabinet: Inoculate SAB with the swab Ensure all surfaces of swab make contact with the agar Streak for isolated growth using a disposable inoculation needle Write on the plate the date of the 48-hour read
2	Incubate the media: • Place SAB on the workbench

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INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

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

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:

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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	 List quantitation as "Isolated" 		

REFERENCES:

- 1. Leber, A. (2016). *Clinical microbiology procedures handbook.* (4thed.) Washington, D.C.: ASM Press
- 2. 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*, 11th edition. Washington, D.C: ASM Press

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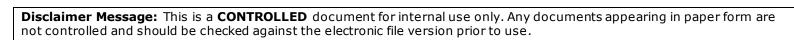
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APPROVAL:			
Date	 	 	 _

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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