

Microbiology Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

12:15 to 13:15

1. KV Agar:
 - We seem to be going through a lot of this, so it is going to have its own bin (white bin) and we will keep an extra box in the walk-in fridge
 - Will also be keeping 1 extra box of MAC and 2 extra boxes of CNA in the walk-in fridge

2. Sputum's:
 - There continues to be issues with sputum culture and AFB culture getting mixed up
 - Laura S checked with the MLA, and they have not been giving all the sputum's to micro. This is making the issue worse
 - Floors are not using the correct requisition and are not filling them out properly, but micro will be able to interpret them better than the MLA
 - Laura S is going to meet with each MLA to make sure they understand they need to put all sputum's in the micro bucket, and we will see what is required
 - If it is an inpatient, and AFB is ordered, put it in the "To Be Accessioned" bucket in the core specimen receiving fridge. We will not order them
 - If it is a community sample and AFB is ordered, put it in the "TDG" bucket in the core specimen receiving fridge.
 - Hopefully with us scanning the requisitions we will know when something doesn't make sense and we can call the ordering locations to clarify so this testing doesn't get missed

3. Dr. Wongs Sputum Samples:
 - He always wants culture, AFB and cytology on his sputum orders
 - Patient needs 3 containers, one for each test
 - We do 3 cultures, 3 cytology and 3 AFB cultures
 - Laura S is going to confirm with Dr. Wong to make sure we are doing it right

4. ID on VITEK for Strep. AST card:
 - For GAS, use full name *S.pyogenes*
 - For GBS, use full name *S.agalactiae*
 - For GCS and GGS, use group C strep and group G strep. We do not give them full names

5. Streaking of plates:
 - Make sure when you are streaking your plates, you don't go too fast and use the whole plate
 - Should only go into the previous streak 2 or 3 times
 - If go in too many times, it doesn't allow for isolated colonies

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- Moses mentioned that they were taught to flame the loop each time. Suggested we change loops after the first streak. Laura S agreed that we can do this, or you can flip the loop and use the other side
 - We will continue to monitor this and make more adjustments as necessary
6. CNA on CXGEN:
- Asked if we can add CAN to CXGEN
 - Laura S agreed and it will be added
7. Anaerobes on CXGEN:
- There are a lot of anaerobes in genital specimens, and this can be normal flora
 - Laura S will review the SOP and make changes so that it is clearer. For vaginal specimens, mixed anaerobes are not important so that will be made clearer
8. Friday jobs:
- Where Laura S used to work, we did something called "Friday Jobs"
 - These were just little things to make the weekend easier
 - Laura S asked if people thought this would be helpful and everyone said yes
 - Laura S will create a checklist for these. It won't be assigned to any bench, but everyone will try to get these done each Friday
9. VRE:
- If isolate VRE in a specimen other than VRE screen, you need to do the ET
 - Can't call something VRE from the VITEK, need to do ET
 - ASTM has who to notify. These are DL notifications. Please refer to the STH procedures for notifications
10. Micro space:
- Laura S has confirmed that Amy will not be moving for a while
 - Laura S wants to know what we can do to make our space better since it is small
 - It was suggested that we keep things the same but another microscope in the TB room will be helpful
 - Laura S will investigate this

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11. STAT grams:

- There was an incident with Dr. Stachiw. She sent down STAT gram stains, but she was upset it took more than 12 hours to get done. Laura S met with her and explained that micro is only here until 8. She also explained that in the morning, there is one tech who sorts specimens and processes positive blood cultures. She suggested the OR mark the biohazard bag with a STAT sticker so the person in the morning will see it right away. Or if it is being delivered during micro hours, the nurse dropping it off asks for a micro tech. Laura S explained that micro is a separate department and sometimes what happens at the front of the lab doesn't get communicated to us. Dr. Stachiw was happy to learn this information and happy we have a solution
- Going forward, the specimen receiving tech should still prioritize positive blood cultures but should try to sort through swabs as soon as they can to make sure there is nothing STAT

12. Weekend:

- They continue to be busy
- BV can wait, PCRES can wait unless it is indicated they are STAT
- If it is busy, need to focus on inpatient samples. Community and clinic samples can wait but need to at least unpack them and make sure nothing is going to time out. If it is, we should be setting it up

13. Roundtable:

- Moses: Everyone needs to make sure they make their gram stains heavy. A lot of the time can't see the bacteria that grows on the plates on the slide. This causes time delays