Routine Specimens (wounds, ears, eyes) Gram

- Under oil immersion (X100, OIF) report the quantity of epithelial cells, white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria seen. Report in this order:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen

NOTE: Only report "None seen" for white blood cells and bacteria. If no epithelial cells or red blood cells are seen, do not report this

Respiratory Specimens Gram

- Under low power (X10, LPF) average the number of epithelial cells and white blood cells:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen

- Calculate the Q-score of the specimen. The Q-score is calculated by assessing the quantity of epithelial cells and neutrophils. Examine 20 to 40 fields and interpret as follows:

Q-score Table				
Epi cells/LPF	**White blood cells /LPF**			
	0	**1-9**	**10-25**	**>25**
0	Q 0	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3
1-9	Q-1	Q 0	Q 1	Q 2
10-25	Q-2	Q-1	Q 0	Q 1
>25	Q-3	Q-2	Q-1	Q 0

- If sample is of good quality, under oil immersion (X100, OIF) report the quantity of epithelial cells, white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria seen. Report in this order:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen

NOTE: Bacteria are not reported if the Q-score indicates specimen is unsatisfactory unless sample is a bronchial aspirate (washings), a bronchoalveolar lavage (BALs), from sterile catheter down ETT, or from a cystic fibrosis patient

NOTE: Only report "None seen" for white blood cells and bacteria. If no epithelial cells or red blood cells are seen, do not report this

NOTE: This is a controlled document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against electronic version prior to use.

FILENAME: MIC20125- Gram Stain Reporting in LIS Job Aid	Print Date: 2025-09-19 10:12 AM

Sterile Fluids Gram

- Under oil immersion (X100, OIF) report the quantity of white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria seen. Report in this order:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen

NOTE: Only report "None seen" for white blood cells and bacteria. If no red blood cells are seen, do not report this

BV Screens Gram

- Under oil immersion (X100, OIF) report the quantity of epithelial cells, white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria seen. Report in this order:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen

- Use the **GMBV 2 of 2** keypad to enter the N-score of the sample:

N-Score Table					
Quantitation of bacterial morphotype	Points scored per morphotype				
	None	1+	2+	3+	4+
Lactobacillus spp.: Med/large gram positive bacilli	4	3	2	1	0
Gardnerella vaginalis: Small, gram variable bacilli	0	1	2	3	4
Mobiluncus spp.: Curved, gram variable bacilli	0	1	1	2	2

Urethral Specimens Gram

- Under oil immersion (X100, OIF) report the quantity of white blood cells and gram negative diplococci seen. Report in this order:

None seen	No cells seen
1+	< 1 cell seen
2+	1 - 9 cells seen
3+	10 - 25 cells seen
4+	> 25 cells seen