PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedure – Laboratory Services	
Title: MIC90200 – STH Microbiology Laboratory-Specimen Turnaround Time	Policy Number:
Program Name: Laboratory Services	
Applicable Domain: Lab, DI and Pharmacy Services	
Additional Domain(s): NA	
Effective Date:	Next Review Date:
Issuing Authority: Director, Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging Services	Date Approved:
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: NA	

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

1. Turnaround times are defined as the time the specimen is received in the Microbiology Laboratory to the time the final result is reported
2. Specimens are set up throughout the day; however, due to time needed for incubation, routine specimens received in the Microbiology Laboratory after 16:00 may not be plated until the following day
3. All STAT gram stains will be read without exception. This includes: positive blood cultures, CSF's, body fluids or any gram indicated as STAT by the physician. During regular Microbiology Laboratory hours, turnaround time for these gram stains is ≤1hour. Outside the regular Microbiology Laboratory hours, a Microbiology Technologist may be called in if ordering physician determines the stain must be read immediately

NOTE: Failure to adhere to these turnaround times is unacceptable and will be investigated accordingly

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

This standard operating procedure describes the expected Turnaround Time (TAT) for microbiology samples processed in the Stanton Territorial Hospital Microbiology Laboratory.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This standard operating procedure applies to Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) processing specimens for microbiology testing**.**

Specimen Type	Preliminary Results	Final Negative	Final Positive	Notes
Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Screen	NA	24 to 48 hours	24 to 48 hours	Only performed on patient's ≥13 years of age If patient is <13 years of age, processed as genital culture Refer to MIC10110-Vaginal Swab Processing Job Aid
Blood Culture	Gram stain: positive phoned ≤1 hour during regular hours Culture: positive culture 24 hours	5 days	48 to 72 hours	2 sets of blood cultures are recommended Each set should be drawn from a separate site Specimen should be transported to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection
Body Fluid Culture	Gram stain: ≤1 hour during regular hours Culture: 24 hours	5 days	48 to 72 hours	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection
C. difficile PCR	NA	24 hours	24 hours	Sample can be refrigerated for up to 5 days.
CSF Culture	Gram stain: ≤1 hour during regular hours Culture: 24 hours	72 hours	72 to 96 hours	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection
Ear Culture	Gram stain: 24 hours Culture: 24 hours	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA
Eye Culture (superficial)	Gram stain: 24 hours Culture: 24 hours	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA

Specimen Type	Preliminary Results	Final Negative	Final Positive	Notes
Eye Culture (deep)	Gram stain: ≤1 hour during regular hours Culture: 24 hours	5 days	48 to 72 hours	NA
Gonorrhoeae Culture	NA	72 hours	72 to 96 hours	Specimen examined for *N. gonorrhoeae* only
Group B Screen	NA	72 hours	72 to 96 hours	Specimen examined for *S. agalactiae* only
IUD Culture	NA	10 days	72 to 96 hours	NA
MRSA Screen	NA	24 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA
MRO Screen	NA	48 hours	72 to 96 hours	NA
MTB PCR	NA	24 hours	24 hours	NA
Nasal Culture	NA	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	Specimen examined for *S. aureus* only
Oral Culture	NA	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	Specimen examined for yeast only
Respiratory Pathogen Panel PCR	NA	24 hours	24 hours	NA
Respiratory Culture	Gram stain: 24 hours Culture: 24 hours	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA
Throat Culture	NA	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	Specimen examined for *S. pyogenes* (GAS) only
Tip Culture	Gram stain: NA Culture: 24 hours	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA
Trichomonas vaginalis Screen	NA	24 hours	24 hours	Refer to MIC10110-Vaginal Swab Processing Job Aid

Specimen Type	Preliminary Results	Final Negative	Final Positive	Notes
Urine Culture	NA	Midstream/ Indwelling Catheter: 24 hours Suprapubic/ Straight/ Intermittent Catheter: 48 hours	24 to 48 hours 48 to 72 hours	NA
VRE Screen	NA	48 hours	72 to 96 hours	NA
Wound Culture (superficial)	Gram stain: 24 hours Culture: 24 hours	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA
Wound Culture (deep)	Gram stain: 24 hours Culture: 24 hours	5 days	48 to 72 hours	NA
Yeast Culture	NA	48 hours	48 to 72 hours	NA

CROSS REFERENCES:
NA

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

APPROVAL:

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Date

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REVISION HISTORY:

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	26 Apr 17	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	05 Mar 19	Update to reflect increase in turnaround time for Group B screen	L. Steven
3.0	30 Nov 22	Procedure reviewed and added to NTHSSA policy template	L. Steven
4.0	19 Nov 24	Procedure reviewed and specimen collection information removed	L. Steven