

2915 MICRO-2915-CH Environmental Culture Other Than Water

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Comments for version 1.0

Initial version

Version History

This document has no approved or retired versions.

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Retired or Not Yet Effective

TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL CULTURE OTHER THAN WATER

PRINCIPLE / PURPOSE: Hospitals and Pharmacy may submit swab specimens of environmental sources (ice machines, hoods, counters, etc.) that are thought to be the cause of contamination problems in their specific areas. Regulatory agencies may require periodic swabbing of surfaces in certain places, such as Pharmacy

Environmental culturing of this type is generally discouraged since outcomes are not generally found to be significant and correlation with infection is often difficult.

SCOPE: This procedure applies to microbiology personnel testing environmental surfaces.

COMPLEXITY LEVEL: High

SAFETY:

- The required personal protective equipment for this procedure:
 - Gloves; optional
 - Approved lab coat, worn closed
 - Biological Safety Cabinet
- Gloves and lab coats should be worn at all times during analysis of the samples
- Due to potential hazards no sniffing of plates

SPECIMEN:

Specimens are generally received on swabs, but inoculated media is an acceptable specimen source.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:

BAP agar
O2 incubator
Loops

CALIBRATION: N/A

QUALITY CONTROL: N/A

PROCEDURE:

1. Roll swab across agar surface.
2. Streak all plates for isolation
3. Incubate cultures for 48 hours in non-CO2

CALCULATIONS: N/A

INTERPRETING AND REPORTING RESULTS:

The most common isolates from environmental cultures are non-fermentative gram-negative rods. The appearance of colonial growth resembling a gram-negative rod, and a positive oxidase reaction constitute sufficient information to name a non-fermenting gram-negative rod. No further testing is necessary.

Each organism growing is reported and quantified. Count colonies and report for each organism. For example 4 colonies of Gram negative rods.

No susceptibility testing is performed on isolates from Environmental cultures.

PROCEDURAL NOTES: N/A

LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURE: N/A

REFERENCES:

1. Garcia, Lynne S.; Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook 3rd Edition; ASM Press; 2010
2. Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-care Facilities. (CDC and HICPAC 2003).