Microbiologists,

The company that makes the Verigene system came to observe our process and run some test samples on our system. The reason they did this was because we are seeing an increase is missed targets, specially S. pneumo isolates.

FYI: Nanosphere is the company that made the Verigene, Nanosphere has been bought out by a company called Luminex. Luminex is now the company that makes instruments, reagents and provides service.

Please read the following feedback from Luminex and take the short quiz. Thanks! -Mike B.

Thank you for taking the time for the Verigene troubleshooting today!

Here is a list of my observations/recommendations:

       Ensure blood culture bottles are fully inverted 4X prior to removing media.

o   If there is blood culture media pulled up in the syringe from when the aliquot was removed for the gram stain, push the contents back into the bottle prior to inverting and removing an aliquot for the Verigene assay.

o   You want to invert close to 180 degrees (until the bottom of the bottle contents reach the top and you can see air at the bottom).

       Prior to loading the aliquot in the extraction tray, give the tube a quick vortex (instead of inverting).

       Pipette tips:

o   Best to use filtered tips to minimize any risk of aerosolization and contamination of the pipettor.

o   If you use non-filtered tips, it’s recommended to decontaminate the pipettor in between samples.

       Mucoid *S. pneumoniae* can be problematic in some applications because the encapsulation can make it difficult to extract the nucleic acids.  However, we checked with our R&D team and confirmed they tested many strains of *S. pneumoniae*including mucoid strains and did not have any issues with them.

       GN assay:

o   Utility trays should be thawed for at least 10 min (at room temperature), but not longer than 30 min.

  You can load everything on the SP, but just don’t start until 10 min after the Utility tray has been removed from the -80 freezer.

       No Call/No Grid:

o   Only invalid error that can be re-read.

o   Click on Menu, Enter Barcode and scan the barcode.

Results for samples sent in for testing by Meggan:

       Sample #10; 092716ES  DOM 9/27/16

o   All samples tested correctly as *S. pneumoniae*.

o   There are 2 samples left onsite that can be tested if needed.

       I downloaded the raw data so it can be compared to the raw data generated in-house for the same samples.