

UW Medicine - Pathology

100-03-01-05

Water QC Monitoring Procedure

Adopted Date: 06/13/09

Revision Date: 05/29/11

PURPOSE

To ensure the deionized water used in the Pathology laboratories meets required quality specifications:

SCOPE

All laboratories that need to ensure water quality.

PROCEDURE

- A. Quarterly Laboratory Deionized Water Testing, samples are sent to Lab Medicine to determine bacteria, resistivity, and silicate levels. If specifications do not meet requirements or the purification system breaks down, Lab Medicine supply will be used until requirements are met and/or system is repaired.
 1. Required Specifications for Instrument Fed Water:
 - a. Bacteria - ≤ 1000 cfu/ml
 - b. Resistivity - ≥ 1 megohm/cm
 - c. Silicates - ≤ 0.1 mg/L
 2. The following steps are to be taken to acquire a deionized water sample for Lab Medicine testing:
 - a. Bacteria and Resistivity:
 - i. Allow water to run from the water source for at least 10 minutes.
 - ii. Collect 10-15ml of water in a plastic container.
 - iii. Label plastic container and deliver to Lab Medicine.
 - b. Silicates:
 - i. Allow water to run from the water source for at least 10 minutes.
 - ii. Collect 45ml of water in a polypropylene container.
 - iii. Label container and deliver to Lab Medicine.
 3. Reporting and corrective action when report of water quality is received:
 - a. If results are within required specifications (see A.1.a, b, & c), record results on tracking log and file.
 - b. If results are not within required specifications:
 - i. Notify Clinical Engineering and vendor of filter for service/repair of filter.
 - ii. Contact Lab Medicine to arrange temporary use of their deionized water supply until results are within specifications.

- iii. Met with lab supervisor to determine who/how/when labs will obtain deionized water from Lab Medicine.
- iv. Notify department that deionized water is not usable in the labs and service/repair has been arranged. Inform of the plan to temporarily obtain deionized water from Lab Medicine.
- v. Post signage that deionized water is out of order.

Once Repaired

- vi. Notify department of repair.
- vii. Remove signage.
- viii. Log results on tracking log
- ix. Repeat testing as dictated by results of service efforts.

B. Monthly Engineering Monitoring:

A monthly reading is taken on the reverse osmosis water purifying system to ensure that 17 megohms are maintained for proper filtering operations and filters are changed as needed.

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