**UW Medicine - Pathology**

400-02-01-11

Contamination Protocol

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| Adopted Date: 08/2003  Review Date: 06/12/09  Revision Date: 03/16/07 |

PURPOSE

To ensure appropriate action is taken if contamination is found in media, reagents, or cultures

PROCEDURE

1. Determine the extent of contamination: 1 vessel; one case; more than one case; or the entire incubator. This will determine course of action in isolating and/or sterilizing culture(s) and incubators.
2. Determine likely contaminant: bacteria, mold, and/or mycoplasma. Filamentous contamination usually means fungus or mold, general cloudiness means bacteria. If it’s important to identify the contaminant beyond type, a sample of contaminated media can be sent to Microbiology if necessary.
3. Determine course of action. Notify Supervisor and make appropriate notes in file and QA/QC sheets. Wash with Tissue Wash and quarantine contaminated cultures. Sterilize incubator if needed.
4. Record information. QC summary sheet or in Comments (various) if it is confined to the entire culture or record in comments for each vessel as applicable.

Written By: Director Approval:

(Signature and Date) (Signature and Date)

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Cytogenetics Supervisor