

April 29, 2024

Microbiology Culture Updates

Discontinued: Culture, Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC Screen)		Test Code: GCSC
Effective Date	Wednesday, May 1, 2024	
Alternative	<p>Culture, Genital (GE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordering of routine genital cultures is rarely sufficient or appropriate as a standalone order and is only indicated for some genital infections. Commonly encountered pathogens such as <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>, <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>, <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>, or <i>S. agalactiae</i> (group B streptococcus for prenatal screening) should be ordered using designated test codes for detection by nucleic acid amplification. Enrichment culture is required for the recovery of GBS, so the GE culture should not be utilized for this purpose. While culture has lower sensitivity than NAAT, it is indicated in some clinical situations or specimen types without available NAAT testing. If genital culture is submitted, it will be screened for relevant genital pathogens including <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>. Given the minimal use of culture-based screening, the <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> specific culture is being discontinued. Please order the Genital Culture if needed. 	

Discontinued: Culture, Genital, Fungus		Test Code: FGE
Effective Date	Wednesday, May 1, 2024	
Alternative	<p>Yeast Culture (YCUL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultures for the targeted recovery of yeast specifically are not often warranted but may be used to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of specific infections caused by yeast, such as vulvovaginitis or thrush. Please note that yeast can be routinely recovered from bacterial cultures and will be identified based on criteria for the source and other recovered organisms. Yeast specific cultures should only be ordered when the causative agent is highly suspected to be yeast, or the targeted recovery and identification of yeast is warranted regardless of site or specimen type. Historically, two culture orders have been used for recovery of yeast, one for genital specimens and one for other specimen types. To eliminate excess codes and ordering confusion, the genital specific culture will be eliminated. Please order the Yeast Culture if needed. This culture is handled in a manner specific for the recovery of yeast, if other filamentous fungi are suspected, a Fungal Culture (MYR or MYD) should be ordered. 	

Discontinued: Culture, Tissue, Quantitative

Test Code: QUTI

Effective Date **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

Alternative **Culture, Tissue or Culture, Aerobic and Anaerobic (TI or AN)**

- Quantitative tissue cultures are infrequently ordered and will be discontinued in favor of routine, semi-quantitative cultures.
- While some laboratories continue to offer quantitative cultures, clinical evidence demonstrates that the density and diversity of bacteria present across a wound varies dramatically. Additionally, the method of collection and processing can vary greatly leading to inconsistent results with quantitative cultures.

Best Practice Update: Proper Collection and Ordering of Anaerobic Cultures

- Wherever possible anaerobic cultures should not be collected on swabs. Use of swabs promotes the collection of more superficial specimens that decrease the chances of recovering pathogens and increase the recovery of normal microbiota. Please submit an aspirate or tissue specimen wherever possible.
- The following sites have normal anaerobic flora and will not be accepted for routine anaerobic culture – throat and respiratory specimens, skin and superficial wounds, ulcer surfaces, urine, drainage collected into contaminated devices, specimens from the ear canal or outer ear. In the event culture of these sites is warranted the HNL Lab Medicine Microbiology Department should be notified to discuss the proper site and method of collection. Cultures from these sources may be credited and referred to an aerobic culture.

If you have additional questions regarding these tests, please contact Technical Support between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 877-402-4221.

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