



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Microbiology

Test Name: Routine Bacterial Culture (aerobic) – Definitive Identification

Test Includes: Conventional biochemicals	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: 3 - 14 days	Contact Number: (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Conventional biochemicals, serogrouping	
Turnaround Time: 3-14 days dependent on organism(s) isolated.	Reference Range: None isolated.
Limitations: Isolation of pathogens depends on viable organisms. Quality of specimen collection will affect the ability to isolate Pathogenic organisms from clinical specimens. Specimens should be collected prior to antimicrobial therapy.	Interpretation: Interpretation of test results is dependent on the organism isolated and the clinical information.
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection: Should be obtained early in the course of illness	Sample Type: Blood, body fluids, bone marrow, CSF, sputum, throat swab, tissue, wound exudates, n/p swabs
Volume/Amount Required: CSF 1-2 ml, blood in blood culture bottles, tissue – small piece, bone marrow – small amount	Preferred Specimen: Blood, body fluids, bone marrow, CSF, sputum, throat swab, tissue, wound exudates, n/p swabs
Collection/Preservation: Collect blood by venipuncture, specimen held at ambient temperature.	Storage Instructions: Store specimens at 2-8° C (refrigerator). Do not freeze or refrigerate whole blood.
Causes for Rejection: Insufficient amount of sample to test due to leakage or other circumstances; no identifying marks on sample and/or paperwork; name discrepancies, expired transport media.	Sample Container: sterile containers with screw-cap lids. Swabs in appropriate transport media.
Sample Test Kit: .	Availability: Monday-Friday
Diagnostic Information: Please indicate suspected organism(s) when submitting specimen. Culture includes the isolation and identification and serogroup/serotyping when appropriate of the predominate organism or pathogen(s). Specimens should be collected in the acute phase of infection. Transport to laboratory as soon as possible, usually within 48 hours. Sterile body fluids such as CSF and blood do not require any transport medium and should not be diluted.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form: Standard request form or electronically through Invision interface.	Specimen Handling: Handle body fluids using Universal Precautions. Infectious agent Biosafety Level 2.



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Transport Temperature: 2-8° C <24 hours unless in transport medium.	Shipping Requirements: Hand delivered.
<i>Billing</i>	
CPT Code(s): 87070/87077	Fees: \$20.00
Effective Date: June 15, 2011	