



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

Section: Mycobacteriology

Test Name: Tuberculosis (Culture – Isolation)

Test Includes: Isolation of Mycobacteria and identification to species level.	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: Positive cultures 14-21 days or earlier. Negative cultures 42 days.	Contact Number: (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Culture in MGIT bottles; Identification by probes and conventional biochemicals	
Turnaround Time: Negatives held for 6 weeks	Reference Range: No growth in 6 weeks
Limitations: Delay in transport of specimen could compromise isolation of organism.	
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection:	Sample Type: Clinical specimen
Volume/Amount Required: 3 ml to 15 ml	Preferred Specimen: Sputum, tissue, exudate, urine, stool. blood, body fluids
Collection/Preservation: No preservative	Storage Instructions: Transport specimen as soon as possible. If transport is delayed over one hour, refrigerate specimen, unless blood.
Causes for Rejection: Specimens received frozen, in formalin, or in culture medium will be rejected. Swabs are discouraged unless the only specimen available; submit swabs in 5 ml sterile saline. Gastric specimens must be neutralized prior to transport. Refrigerated blood specimens will be rejected.	Sample Container: Sterile, leak-proof, 50 ml urine cup or 50 ml conical tube preferred for primary container. Add up to 10 ml sterile saline to tissue if needed to maintain moisture during transport. Collect blood specimens in Isolator tubes..
Sample Test Kit:	Availability: Tested seven days per week
Diagnostic Information: Nucleic acid amplification testing for <i>M. tuberculosis</i> complex performed on positive AFB smear initial pulmonary specimens.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form:	Specimen Handling:
Transport Temperature: Ambient acceptable but 2-8°C preferred for non-sterile specimens.	Shipping Requirements: Triple-contained and packaged to meet requirements of DOT, USPS, PHS and IATA for shipping of clinical specimens.
<i>Billing</i>	
CPT Code(s): 87178, 87116,	Fees: \$30.00
Effective Date: July 1, 2008	