



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

**Section: Bacteriology**

**Test Name: Aerobic Bacterial Culture (Isolation)**

<b>Test Includes:</b> Conventional biochemicals	
<i>Reporting</i>	
<b>Results Available:</b> 3-21 days	<b>Contact Number:</b> (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
<b>Method:</b> Conventional biochemicals, BBL Crystal	
<b>Turnaround Time:</b> 3- 21 days dependent on organism(s) isolated	<b>Reference Range:</b> None isolated
<b>Limitations:</b> Quality of specimen collection will affect the ability to isolate pathogenic organisms from clinical specimens.	<b>Interpretation:</b> Interpretation of test results is dependent on the organism isolated and the clinical history of the patient.
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
<b>Specimen Collection:</b> Specimens should be collected early in the course of illness.	<b>Sample Type:</b> Blood, body fluids, bone marrow, CSF, Sputum, throat swab, tissue, wound exudates
<b>Volume/Amount Required:</b> CSF 1-2 ml; blood 2-5 ml; tissue – small piece; bone marrow – small amount	<b>Preferred Specimen:</b> Blood, body fluids, bone marrow, CSF, Sputum, throat swab, tissue, wound exudates
<b>Collection/Preservation:</b> Collect in appropriate container to avoid leakage and keep between 2-8°C. Blood specimens held at ambient temperature..	<b>Storage Instructions:</b> Do not freeze or refrigerate whole blood. Keep other specimens at 2-8°C
<b>Causes for Rejection:</b> 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..	<b>Sample Container:</b> Sealable container that does not leak. Transport media containers such as Cary-Blair, Amies or Stuart’s transport. Sterile collection tubes.
<b>Sample Test Kit:</b>	<b>Availability:</b> Monday - Friday.
<b>Diagnostic Information:</b> Please indicate suspected organism(s) when submitting specimen. Culture includes the isolation and identification. Specimens should be collected in the acute phase of infection. Transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. Sterile body fluids such as CSF and blood do not require any transport medium and should not be diluted.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
<b>Request Form:</b> Clinical test requisition form or electronically through Invision	<b>Specimen Handling:</b> Body fluids handled using universal precautions.
<b>Transport Temperature:</b> 2°-8°C during transport unless in preservative.	<b>Shipping Requirements:</b> Triple-contained and packaged to meet requirements of DOT, USPS, PHS and IATA for shipping of clinical specimens.



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<i>Billing</i>	
<b>CPT Code(s):</b> 87070	<b>Fees:</b> \$20.00
Effective Date: January 1, 2008	