



Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

Date: April 12, 2017

To: Physicians in the Interlake Eastern and Southern Health RHAs Ordering Routine Urine Cultures and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Their Patients

From: Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology, DSM
Joelle Carlson, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology, DSM

 

Re: Change in testing laboratory may result in minor changes in patient reporting for urine sample culture work-up and antimicrobial susceptibility testing results

TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Effective April 3 to June 30, 2017 (depending upon location), the testing of urine samples ordered by physicians in the Interlake Eastern and Southern Health RHAs will transition from the Dynacare Laboratory in Winnipeg to the Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM) Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg.

Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM), Manitoba's public sector diagnostic health care service provider has been systematically repatriating front-line clinical microbiology testing (bacteriology, mycology) from other laboratory providers to ensure standardized testing across the province. The current contract with Dynacare Laboratories to provide urine culture testing for physicians within the Interlake-Eastern and Southern RHAs ends in June 2017 and as a result, DSM will commence providing urine culture testing for these regions. Physicians may notice subtle differences in the reporting of patient results by DSM compared with reports previously received from the Dynacare Laboratory. If any questions arise regarding reporting by the DSM Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at the St. Boniface Hospital, please call the laboratory at 204 237 2484 to inquire about test results. The hours of operation of the St. Boniface Clinical Microbiology Laboratory are 08:00 to 22:00 7 days a week.

A DSM Clinical Microbiology requisition must be used to order a urine culture at a DSM clinical microbiology laboratory. A UriSwab® urine transport container (contains boric acid as a preservative) must be used to submit all urine samples for culture from rural RHAs. Requisitions that do not have appropriate patient and sample identifiers will be rejected (refer to Diagnostic Services Manitoba Sample Acceptance Policy). Patient identification should be done in accordance with the site policy. Please indicate on the requisition if the patient is receiving antimicrobial therapy (or not), whether the patient is symptomatic or asymptomatic, or any other important clinical information relevant to the work-up of potential pathogens. Culture should be ordered based on the patient's symptoms being consistent with a urinary tract infection (exceptions: pregnancy, invasive urologic surgery). An order for urine culture should be independent of an order for urinalysis to ensure that a sterile specimen is collected and submitted for culture. Urine samples for *Chlamydia* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are best done using a molecular assay and are performed by the Cadham Provincial Laboratory.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. James Karlowsky at 204-237-2105 or Joelle Carlson at 204-237-2073.