



MEMO

TO: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

FROM: Brittany Vaughn, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology
Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology

DATE: May 28, 2013

SUBJECT: *Update - Blood Culture Reporting*

Starting May 29, 2013, Regional Medical Laboratory will be updating our reporting procedure for blood cultures. **Negative blood cultures will receive a preliminary report at 24 hours and a final report at 4 days. Cultures will continue to be monitored by BD Bactec instruments for 1 additional day, resulting in a full 5 day incubation period.** The small percentage of cultures that turn positive after 4 days will receive an amended report and will be called to the ordering physician.

This decision is based upon the results of an internal study which showed only 2% of all positive cultures occur after 4 days of incubation. Additionally, the majority of these would clinically be considered as skin contaminants.

Please contact Brittany Vaughn, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology or Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology & Immunology at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077 with questions regarding these updates.