



## MICROBIOLOGY

### Availability for STERILE BODY FLUID Cell Count and Culture

<b>MICROBIOLOGY Staff available on site</b>	<b>Monday – Friday</b>	<b>0800 – 2200</b>
	<b>Saturday, Sunday</b>	<b>0800 – 1900</b>
	<b>Public Holidays</b>	<b>0800 - 1630</b>

**CELL COUNT – sample MUST always be collected into PURPLE TOP blood tube – except for CSF**

<b>SAMPLE</b>	<b>Service Available After Hours</b>	<b>Contact Micro On – call staff Through Operator</b>	<b>Optimal Sample Collection for All Testing</b> Lower volumes will be accepted, but, please prioritise tests
<b>CSF</b>	Cell count and culture	Yes	CSF tubes – volume dependent on testing required
<b>CAPD</b> <b>Ascites</b> <b>Pericardial</b> <b>Pleural</b> <b>Synovial *</b>	Cell count WBC differential	No  Send samples to lab immediately following collection	<b>1. Cell count</b> <b>Purple-top blood tube</b> 3.0 – 5.0 mL      0.5 – 3.0 mL acceptable <b>2. Culture</b> <b>Sterile plain pottle</b> Do NOT send bag 20 - 30 mL          5.0 ml acceptable if blood culture bottle/s also submitted <b>3. Culture</b> <b>Blood culture bottles</b> 5-10mL/bottle
<b>*Synovial Fluid - CRYSTALS</b>	Not available after hours	No	Test performed from sterile plain pottle as above

## BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLE INFORMATION

- Inoculate sterile body fluids into blood culture bottles on site and send to the laboratory as soon as possible for immediate incubation
- Not all bacterial pathogens will grow in blood culture bottles. Always submit a plain pottle for culture
- Blood culture bottles should NEVER be used for samples from sites with normal flora or when several bacterial species can be expected, e.g. abscesses or peritoneal fluid after perforated intestine.
  - Using blood culture bottles on these samples may give misleading results due to overgrowth of rapidly growing organisms.

### **For protection of staff and sample always use aseptic technique and appropriate PPE**

- **Clean the top of the bottle with a fresh alcohol wipe**
- **5-10 mL should be collected into each aerobic and anaerobic bottle**
  - **Small volume - inoculate aerobic bottle only**
  - **Smaller sample volume may decrease the yield**
- **Take care not to introduce air into anaerobic bottle**
- **To avoid contamination, put sample in sterile pottle and blood culture bottles before any other tubes**

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