



Clinical Laboratory Department POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 1100
VERSION: 3

SUBJECT: Environmental Cultures -Hood Air Sterility and IV Samples

Purpose:

Environmental culturing is performed to monitor the preparation performance of the IV Admixture Service on a routine basis. Microbiological sampling is helpful in testing the effectiveness of new or modified cleaning and/or disinfecting procedures.

Protocol:

Cultures are taken from the hood in the pharmacy at multiple locations within the hood by pharmacy personnel. Cultures may also be taken from random samples of IV's by pharmacy personnel. A follow up culture may be requested to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleaning or procedure change. Cultures from other sites, such as fingers of pharmacy personnel, for example, may also be taken.

Equipment, Supplies:

Blood Agar Plates

Gloves

Incubator, aerobic, 35 °C

Gram Stain Reagents

Procedure:

1. Supply the pharmacy employee the number of blood agar plates requested. Often they furnish their own plates based upon their own protocols.
2. Plates will be returned from the pharmacy having been exposed to the hood environment for a period of 30 minutes. They will be labeled by the pharmacy employee indicating the location of the dish inside the hood. If an IV bag or tube is received from the pharmacy, an aliquot of approximately 1-2 drops should be aseptically removed and plated to blood agar plates. Label the plates with the same information that was on the bag or tube. Any other media received from the pharmacy is also acceptable.
3. Order each specimen received from the pharmacy in the computer system. Follow procedure in the computer section of this manual.
4. Incubate the plate aerobically (with CO₂) at 35 °C for 24 hours or whatever timeframe is indicated on the form that pharmacy provides. Using adequate light and magnification, count the number of colonies on the surface of the plate. If no colonies grow, record as "no growth" or "NG." If growth is present, gram stain the colony or colonies and report only the gram stain results. Do not further identify the colonies.

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5. If any other written protocol is provided by the pharmacy, follow given instructions.
6. Document results on the worksheet provided by pharmacy as well as in the computer system.
7. Send paper results to pharmacy and keep a copy in the lab office or in a file in the computer.

References:

Pharmacy Policy and Procedure Manual –Quality Control Program – I.V. Admixture Service, Microbial Testing of Pharmacy IV Preparations

Approved By: Brian Yee (PHYS SPEC PATHOLOGY)	
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