

Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedures		
Title:	Ear Specimens and Ear Swabs Culture		
Applies To:	All Laboratory Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To establish system and set responsibilities for processing ear specimens ear swabs culture.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 N/A

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 The ear swab should be collected using a clean, sterile swab and sent in Amies transport medium.
3.2 If a delay in transport or processing is anticipated, the specimen should be kept at 4°C.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 Processing of Specimens:

- 4.1.1 Direct Examination: Gram stain (Not applicable for media with charcoal), quantitate the presence of pus cells and organisms.
4.1.2 Culture on the following media:

Blood Agar (BA) ---- O2, 35+2 °C x 48 hours
Chocolate Agar (CHOC) ----- CO2, 35+2 °C x 48 hours
MacConkey Agar (MAC) ---- O2, 35+2 °C x 48 hours
If fungus culture is requested, add: Sabouraud Agar (SD)* --- O2, 30°C x 3 weeks

4.1.3 Interpretation of Cultures:

- 4.1.3.1 Examine the culture plates after 24- and 48-hours incubation.
4.1.3.2 Any growth of *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. pneumoniae*, Group A streptococcus or yeast is significant.
4.1.3.3 For specimens from neonates only, identify and report Group B strep.
4.1.3.4 A significant result is determined by the presence of moderate to heavy growth of an organism which correlates with the predominant organism on the Gram stain.
4.1.3.5 Full identification is required for all significant organisms except yeast.

4.1.4 Susceptibility Testing:

- 4.1.4.1 Refer to Susceptibility Testing Manual.

4.2 Reporting Results:

4.2.1 Gram stain:

- 4.2.1.1 Report with quantitation the presence of pus cells and organisms.

4.2.2 Culture:

- 4.2.2.1 Negative Report: "Commensal flora" or "No growth after 48hrs incubation".
4.2.2.2 Positive Report: Report all significant isolates with appropriate sensitivities.

5. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Ordinary culture media
- 5.2 Microscan panels/ Vitek2 system ID & AST cards

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Assigned Technician for Microbiology
- 6.2 Clinical Pathology Specialist/ Consultant

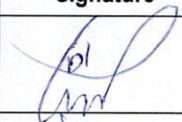

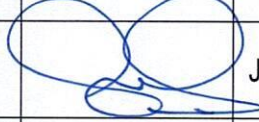

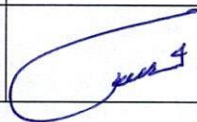
7. APPENDICES:

- 7.1 N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Procedure Manual, Toronto Medical laboratories / Mount Sinai Hospital department of microbiology.
- 8.2 Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology. Feingold & Baron; 12th. Ed.2007, C.V. Mosby Co. p. 301.

9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Dr. Kawther M. Abdou	Consultant & Lab. Medical Director		January 06, 2025
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