

PDL Update:

URINE CULTURE REPORTING CHANGES

September 20, 2021

WHAT HAS CHANGED

Effective Sept 27, 2021, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) will be updating the standard work-up and reporting for **ROUTINE URINE CULTURE (LAB239)** testing. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) will only be performed if the uropathogen estimated quantitation range is >50,000 cfu/mL.

Below is a summary of the work-up and reporting for our urine culture test options.

TEST NAME	LAB CODE	INTENDED USE	
ROUTINE URINE CULTURE	LAB239	For clean-catch specimens for <u>routine urine culture</u>	
CULTURE COUNT		CULTURE WORK-UP/REPORTING	
ORGANISM QUANTITATION RANGE		Effective: 9/27/2021	PREVIOUS
No Growth		No Growth	No Growth
<10,000 cfu/mL		ID	ID
10,000 – 50,000 cfu/mL		ID	ID/AST
>50,000 cfu/mL		ID/AST	ID/AST
TEST NAME	LAB CODE	INTENDED USE	
URINE CULTURE ANAEROBIC	LAB8753	For specimens collected from <u>sterile sites</u>	
URINE CULTURE COMPREHENSIVE	LAB10527	For <u>complicated urology cases only</u>	
ORGANISM GROWTH RANGE		CULTURE WORK-UP/REPORTING	
No Growth		No Growth	No Growth
<10,000 cfu/mL		ID/AST	ID/AST
10,000 – 50,000 cfu/mL			
>50,000cfu/mL			
<i>ID = Organism Identification</i> <i>AST = Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (if the uropathgen is pure or predominant)</i> <i>cfu/mL = colony-forming unit per milliliter</i>			

REASON FOR THE CHANGE

As part of the PDL Quality Assurance program, a validation of our urine culture testing process was recently completed. The results revealed that the organisms identified on a colony count of 10,000 – 50,000 cfu/mL on routine urine cultures were primarily from colonization of the urethra or skin/fecal contamination during the collection. Performing susceptibility testing on low quantity organisms is usually not clinically relevant.

Please Note:

- **Urine Culture Comprehensive:** The Urine Culture Comprehensive (LAB10527) test is purposely designed for urology patients presenting with *complicated urinary tract infections* such as pyelonephritis, urosepsis, urinary tract obstructions/alternations, or presenting a fistula. This test option should not be used for routine urine cultures.
- **Billing/Charges:** Additional charges apply for each identification and susceptibility performed.
- **Medical Necessity Coding:** Urine culture orders must be accompanied by appropriate medical necessity (ICD10) coding and may also require an advanced beneficiary notice (ABN).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100

Stewart W. Comer, MD FCAP Medical Director Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories