

Date: May 24, 2012

To: South Zone – West: Surgeons, Surgical Suites and Laboratory Sites at Chinook Regional Hospital, Cardston Health Centre, Crowsnest Pass Health Centre, Pincher Creek Health Centre and Taber Health Centre; Central Processing

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: **** ALERT**** Anaerobic Culture Transport Media

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

Our current anaerobic culture transport media is contaminated with nonviable Gram positive bacilli. The manufacturer has been notified of the problem and an investigation has been initiated. We are actively searching for an alternate supplier.

Why this is important:

- The organisms are seen in the Gram stain, resulting in false positive Gram stains.
- Since the organisms are nonviable, they do not result in a false positive culture

Action Required:

- Please prepare a direct smear by applying the specimen (a drop of fluid or swab of the affected area) to the surface of a sterile glass slide (stores order #7021080) and allow to air dry. This slide will be used for Gram stain assessment.
- Tissue for anaerobic culture may be submitted in a sterile dry container (without transport media) if immediate delivery to the Microbiology laboratory can be assured. If immediate delivery cannot be assured, place a small amount of tissue in the tube of culture media.
- A swab or a fluid sample should be submitted in the anaerobic transport media for culture.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. V. Boras, MD, FRCPC, Pathologist in Charge of Microbiology at 403-388-6110.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. B. Popma, Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone