

Date: August 30, 2016
To: Physicians, Lab Supervisors and Managers, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners located at Daysland, Killam and Bashaw, Homecare, Rosehaven, Bethany Group, and Sunrise Village
From: St. Mary's Hospital Microbiology Laboratory, Covenant Health
Re: Discontinuation of UriSwab urine culture transport tube for Microbiology Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective September 12, 2016, the St. Mary's Hospital Microbiology Laboratory will be discontinuing the UriSwab urine culture transport tube with preservative. Urine collection for bacterial culture across the zone (except Vegreville) will be standardized to the BD Vacutainer® Urine Culture and Sensitivity tube (grey top).
- The BD Vacutainer urine collection tube will be used for the transport of all urine culture specimens, including pediatric collections and invasive urines (cystoscopy, suprapubic aspirates, nephrostomy, in/out catheters).
- There will be no change to any other urine collection or testing process, i.e. samples for urinalysis, urine chemistry or cytology. Continue to collect these samples as per current guide to services requirements.
- During the transition to the new urine bacterial transport method, both types of transport devices will be accepted and processed. There will be no change to culture reporting or final reports.
- If the time from collection to receipt in the laboratory is > 48hrs for a specimen in preservative, the culture results may be unreliable and clinical correlation or repeat culture will be recommended. These specimens will still be processed with a comment added indicating that culture results should be considered with caution.
- The preservative in the BD Urine Vacutainer tube is optimized for 4 mL of urine. Bacteria in lower volume urines may be inhibited by the preservative. Small volume urine collections for C&S (< 4 mL) - from infants, and in other clinical scenarios - should be submitted in orange-top, sterile containers which need to be REFRIGERATED during storage and transported to the SMH Micro laboratory with ice packs as soon as possible, not greater than 24hrs from time of collection. Patients should not take the BD Urine Vacutainer device home for collection of urine as the transport straw has a sharp needle.
- Urine C&S transport containers that are over or under filled will NOT be processed.

Why this is important:

- The BD Vacutainer® Urine Culture and Sensitivity Tube device is optimized to:
 - Provide stability of the urine sample, without requiring refrigeration during transit.
 - Benefit healthcare workers by reducing exposure to potentially hazardous specimens.
 - Reduce contaminated samples in standard containers because plastic vacutainer tubes will not leak in transit

- Proper urine collection methods, to minimize contamination with perineal flora, remain extremely important.

Action Required:

- Review your current supply of UriSwab preservative tubes with the expectation to no longer use this product after September 12, 2016.
- Review previously distributed training literature.
- BD Vacutainer Urine Collection System supplies are available through established supply sources (i.e. AHS for AHS hospitals and facilities)

AHS Supply Ordering Information

New Product	Part #	Oracle #	Mediatech #
Vacutainer Urine C&S Kit	CABD364953	114669	3028595

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Valerie Burton, Laboratory Services Manager, (780) 679-6132

Email: valerie.burton@covenanthealth.ca

Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Microbiologist, (780) 904-3293

Email: Robert.Rennie@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Garnet Horne, Central Zone Clinical Department Head, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine