

Date: July 17, 2012

To: South Zone – West: All Physicians, All Laboratory / Collection Sites, Nursing Unit Managers / Educators

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone West

Re: New Supplier for Anaerobic Transport Media

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective immediately, BD BBL Port-a-cul Anaerobic Transport media has been replaced with Starplex Starswab Anaerobic Transport system.

Each package of Starplex Starswab Anaerobic Transport system contains 2 swabs and a tube of media. A new feature of the Starplex tubes is that they contain a rubber septum on top for easy injection of aspirated fluids.

Why this is important:

The current anaerobic transport media (Port-a-cul) is contaminated with non-viable Gram positive bacilli. The organisms are seen in the Gram stain, leading to false positive Gram stains. The organisms are non-viable therefore they do not result in false positive culture results. Please refer to Lab Bulletin from May 24, 2012 Anaerobic Culture Transport Media.

The Starplex Starswab Anaerobic Transport system has been tested and proven to be adequate as a replacement.

Action Required:

Please discard any remaining Port-a-cul transport media you may have on site and order new media through Stores. The Stores item number has not changed and remains 7012950.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Aderemi Bolarinwa, Microbiology Supervisor at 403-388-6108 or
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