Des Moines Laboratory Update

Date: February 27, 2020

MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory is transitioning blood culture bottles from BacTAlert FA, SN and PF to BacTAlert FA Plus, FN Plus and PF Plus. Instead of charcoal, the new bottles have resin beads to better neutralize antibiotics. This will also make reading gram stains easier. Studies have shown the new bottles have better recovery and faster time to detection. We hope to see improved recovery and time to detection in our laboratory.

The transition to the new bottles will be gradual, as we will be using up the old bottles until our supply is gone. Please continue to use up old bottles in your stock before using new bottles. Each blood culture set drawn should have one aerobic bottle (old or new green) and one anaerobic bottle (old purple or new orange). It is acceptable to draw a set with one old and one new bottle as long as one is aerobic and one is anaerobic. Volumes and procedure for blood culture collection are unchanged.

Old bottles:
Anaerobic bottle is purple with no charcoal.
Only anaerobic bottle has fill line.
Aerobic green and peds yellow have charcoal to help neutralize antibiotics.

New bottles:
Anaerobic bottle is orange.
Both aerobic and anaerobic bottles have a fill line.
All three bottles have adsorbent polymeric beads to help neutralize antibiotics.

Please contact Jill Noble, Manager of Specialty Services, at 515-247-4038 with any questions.

Thank you for choosing MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory.