

Laboratory Update

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QuantIFERON-TB Gold: Processing Update

We've received multiple QuantiFERON-TB Gold specimens that were **incubated but not centrifuged**, leading to processing delays and confusion. When samples are incubated without subsequent centrifugation, our laboratory staff cannot confirm whether incubation has occurred, which may result in order cancellations.

To ensure proper handling and avoid delays, please adhere to **one** of the following processing options:

No Processing

- Draw the tubes and send them **unprocessed**
- Do not incubate or centrifuge

Fully Processed

- **Incubate and centrifuge** the specimens per protocol
- Send them to MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory

Duplicate Orders for HPV and CTNG Testing

When ordering a Pap Smear [LAB4], the Ask at Order Entry (AOE) questions are designed to automatically add HPV and CT/NG testing if "Yes" is selected for the corresponding options. However, duplicate orders can occur when HPV and CT/NG are also submitted as separate tests (e.g., Pap + HPV + CT/NG).

To prevent this, the laboratory recommends using the Pap Smear [LAB4] order with completed AOE responses on the requisition to trigger any additional testing. This approach eliminates the need to place separate orders for HPV and CT/NG.

Submitting both separate orders and AOE responses often results in duplicate tests and confusion when reviewing cancelled orders. Relying solely on the AOE-triggered method will streamline the ordering process and enhance accuracy.

Aerobic Cultures: Source Required

We've noticed that many aerobic culture specimens are arriving at the laboratory without a clearly indicated source (body site). In several instances, the requisition form simply states "Swab," which does not provide sufficient information for accurate processing.

Why this matters:

Knowing the specific body site is essential, as it helps our microbiology team determine the expected normal flora and tailor the culture workup accordingly.

What we need from you:

- Clearly indicate the source (body site) on all culture specimens
- Avoid using generic terms like "Swab" without further detail