

4/23/2026

Laboratory Update

Changes in Urine Culture Resulting/Reporting

Start Date: April 20th, 2026

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Beginning on Monday, April 20, 2026, the following changes will take effect:

- Reduced Time to Final Result for Negative Clean Catch Culture samples
- New <1,000 CFU/mL microorganism quantitation for invasively collected urine samples

Details:

- **Time to FINAL RESULT for NEGATIVE CULTURES:**
 - **NEW:** Cultures of voided urines (i.e., clean catch, mid-stream) and other non-invasive sources, including those obtained via indwelling catheters
 - Examined at 16 hours by both Microbiologist & Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Cultures with no growth will be **Final Verified as “No Growth at 16 hours.”**
 - No further examinations / incubations will occur
 - All significant growth of true urinary tract pathogens from this non-invasive sample type occurs within 16 hours when tested in closed, automated incubation systems such as that used in our PLP Microbiology Laboratory.
**This method of examination will also be used if a specific urine source is not provided upon test collection.*
 - **UNCHANGED: All invasive urine sources** (cystoscopically obtained specimens, kidney or suprapubic aspirates)
 - Examined at 16 hours by both Microbiologist & Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Those showing no microorganism growth will continue to be **Preliminary Verified as “No Growth at 16 hours.”**
 - Re-examined again by both Microbiologist & Artificial Intelligence (AI) at 30 hours.
 - Those showing no microorganism growth will continue to be **Final Verified as “No Growth at 30 hours.”**
 - Significant growth detection of urinary tract pathogens from invasive samples can require extended incubation.
- **<1,000 CFU/mL QUANTITATION:**
 - **NEW:** Cultures of **invasive sources**
 - Cultures showing **NO GROWTH** of microorganism(s) when 1 µL of sample is tested, **but show growth of any amount of microorganism(s) when 10 µL of sample is tested,** will be resulted with the quantitation of <1,000 CFU/mL.
 - Increased sensitivity in detecting lower levels of microorganisms in invasive samples can be helpful in diagnoses of complicated urinary tract infections.

TESTING LABORATORY: Preferred Lab Partners (PLP)

For questions or concerns, please contact me at sajini_mathew@trihealth.com or 513-862-1604.

or Irene Hemphill at Irene_Hemphill@trihealth.com or 513-208-6747

Medical Directors, TriHealth Laboratories

Sajini Mathew MD—Bethesda North Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, TriHealth Anderson, Good Samaritan Western Ridge, TriHealth Kenwood
Megan Smith MD—Bethesda Arrow Springs, Bethesda Butler Hospital, McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital