AFB Referred Culture (Mycobacteria for ID)

Revised 6/9/17

Test description	Identification of mycobacteria to the species, complex or group..
Test use	To identify mycobacteria isolated in culture.
Test Department	Mycobacteriology Laboratory Phone: (860) 920-6649, FAX (860) 920-6721
Methodology	Identification methods: DNA probe and MALDI-TOF Mass Spectroscopy (MS).
Availability	Isolate identification is generally available within 10-21 days of confirmation of acid fast bacilli in culture. Culture growth rates and viability may impact identification turnaround time.
Specimen Requirements	Acid fast organism on solid or in liquid media commonly used for the isolation of mycobacteria species such as Lowenstein-Jensen and Middlebrook agar; also media from automated test systems (e.g BACTEC™ MGIT™ broth).
Collection Kit/Container	Follow all applicable federal regulations for packaging of infectious substances.
Collection Instructions	Submit culture in routine agar or broth media
Specimen Handling & Transport	Transport to the laboratory at ambient temperature. Avoid temperature extremes. Cultures suspected of containing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* should be packaged and shipped in accordance with "Category A Infectious Substances" guidelines.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimens. Cultures that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit. Cultures overgrown with or contaminated by non-acid fast bacteria.
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select **AFB Referred Culture**)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #). Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth. Specimen type or site of collection, date collected, and test requested. Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen. Include prior AFB testing results, if available.
Limitations	• Non-acid fast organisms present in the culture may interfere with identification of mycobacteria. • DNA probe identification test does not differentiate between members of the tuberculosis complex (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis, M. africanum, M. bovis, M. canettii, M. microti, M. caprae, and M. pinnipedii)*. • A small number of biochemically determined *M. avium* complex isolates may not be detected by the DNA probe identification test.
Additional comments	In some cases, isolates will only be identified to the species level or to the "species-complex group" (such as *M. avium* complex or *M. tuberculosis* complex). Isolates can be submitted to collaborating laboratories for additional testing. Consult with Mycobacteriology Laboratory for further information.