Technical Bulletin

Discontinuation of In-House Fungal Blood and Bone Marrow Cultures

Effective December 1, 2026, Methodist Pathology will no longer perform Fungus-Blood or Bone Marrow cultures in-house. These cultures will be referred to our reference laboratory for testing.

In addition, the collection containers for both **Fungus-Blood or Bone Marrow cultures** and **AFB-Blood or Bone Marrow cultures** will change. Please ensure the new collection requirements are followed for all specimens collected on or after December 1, 2026.

Background:

The SPS Vacutainer® tube currently used for fungal and AFB blood and bone marrow cultures has been discontinued by the manufacturer. Our remaining supply is expected to expire on November 30, 2026.

Current SPS tubes may continue to be used for fungal and AFB culture collection until the available inventory is depleted or reaches its expiration date.

Change Effective December 1, 2026:

- New collection container:
  - BACTEC® Myco/F Lytic bottle (ARUP supply # 31916)
  - Available through client services via the Methodist Pathology Center webpage
  - For assistance with ordering, contact Methodist Pathology Client Services at (402) 354-4541
- Specimen Collection and Transport Requirements
  - Whole Blood: Transport 1-5 mL in Bactec(R) Myco/F Lytic bottle.
  - Bone Marrow: Transport 1-5 mL (Min: 0.5 mL) in Bactec(R) Myco/F Lytic bottle
  - Stability: Ambient or Refrigerated 72 hours; Frozen: Unacceptable

Please direct any questions to Methodist Pathology Client Services (402) 354-4541.