



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 22, 2016

**TO:** All Physicians and Residents at Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, and Microbiology Partners

**FROM:** Dr. Debbie Yamamura, Medical Microbiologist

**RE:** **Manufacturer Recall of Columbia Blood Agar**

The HRLMP Microbiology Laboratory received a safety notice from ThermoFisher Scientific that Columbia Blood Agar Media with Sheep Blood may not provide acceptable performance with **lower recovery rates and/or atypical growth of *Streptococcus pyogenes* (GAS)**. The microbiology laboratory has reviewed the potential impact on patient results.

What this means for your patient:

- If a respiratory specimen (e.g., sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoscopy) was collected June 12, 2016 to July 9, 2016, there may be a small risk that certain strains of GAS were not detected in particular if in a mixed culture. GAS is not a common respiratory pathogen, but if there is any clinical concern a repeat specimen is recommended.
- The detection of GAS is NOT affected for throat swabs, wound cultures, sterile fluids or blood cultures as alternative methods or agar culture media are used that would detect GAS.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. D. Yamamura ([yamamura@hhsc.ca](mailto:yamamura@hhsc.ca) or Ext 46111) or the microbiologist on call for further information