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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2, 2015

TO: HHS and SJH Physicians, P. McGillis, P. Guy, K. Bortolon, R. Frassetto, IDMM Residents, Microbiology Laboratory

FROM: Dr. C. Main, Dr. M. Smieja, D. Johnson, M. Gaskin

CC: Microbiologists, J. Korver, D. Boychuk, J. Ellis

RE: **Temporary change in duration of blood culture incubation**

Since September 4, the microbiology laboratory has reduced the incubation period for routine blood cultures from 5 days to 4 days due to an unexpected increase in blood culture volumes. This should have minimal clinical impact as reducing to four days still results in recovery of up to 95-97% as per some published studies. This will not impact the duration of incubation for endocarditis, which will continue to be 7 days.

Please note that follow-up blood cultures after an initial positive are rarely clinically indicated, except for follow-up of *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Candida* positive cultures; and more than two sets of blood cultures should generally not be drawn on a single day, unless endocarditis is suspected.

We are working at increasing our blood culture capacity in the near future.

For any questions, please contact Dr. C. Main (ext 46182) .

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