



Hamilton General Hospital Site
Microbiology Department 1-117
237 Barton Street East
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 2X2 Canada

Dr. C. Main, MD, FRCPC
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pathology and Molecular Medicine
Tel: (905) 527-4322 ext. 46111 Fax: (905) 529-7142
email: mainc@hhsc.ca

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 4, 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**

Effective immediately the microbiology laboratory will be temporarily reducing 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.

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

Dr. C. Main, MD, FRCPC
Medical Microbiologist
HRLMP