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TO: REFERRED IN CLIENTS  
FROM: Jeffery Cuneo, Business Coordinator  
LRC Hamilton  
DATE: JANUARY 26, 2018  
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN BLOOD CULTURE ORGANISM IDENTIFICATION OF  
COAGULASE NEGATIVE STAPHYLOCOCCI

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Identification of *Staphylococcus spp.* from blood culture specimens is now performed using MALDI-TOF.

- The species name for coagulase negative *Staphylococcus* (eg/ *Staphylococcus epidermidis*) will now be reported.
- For coagulase negative staphylococci, providing the species name can help the clinician determine if the isolate is a contaminant. It is strongly recommended that **two sets** of blood cultures are collected (either from different sites or separated by time) to improve the sensitivity of detecting a pathogen and to help determine if an isolate is a contaminant. If one set of a blood cultures grows *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and the second set grows *Staphylococcus hominis* or if the second set is no growth, contamination is more likely. In contrast, if both sets are positive for *Staphylococcus hominis* this more likely reflects infection in a patient with relevant risk factors.
- Since the many species names for Coagulase negative *Staphylococcus* may not be familiar, a comment will indicate the isolate is a coagulase negative *Staphylococcus*.

Organism 1      *Staphylococcus hominis hominis*  
THIS ISOLATE IS A COAGULASE NEGATIVE  
STAPHYLOCCUS

- *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* are significant pathogens and should **not** routinely be considered a contaminant.

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If you have further questions contact:

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