

# New Test Announcement



## Rapid Staph aureus Determination from Positive Blood Cultures

Effective 6/16/10, when a blood culture becomes positive and gram positive cocci (singly or in clusters) are noted, PCR testing will immediately be initiated. This testing will determine if the organism is Staph aureus-methicillin sensitive (MSSA), Staph aureus-methicillin resistant (MRSA) or a gram positive cocci other than Staph aureus. When this testing is completed, positive blood culture results will be called to the care giver. This information will be available within one hour of detecting a blood culture as positive.

### Advantages of this upgrade to PCR methodology:

- One hour positive blood culture results for MRSA, MSSA or possible gram positive cocci, not Staph aureus.
- Results available around the clock
- Allows de-escalation from broad-spectrum therapy to a targeted antimicrobial approach 24-48 hours sooner
- Enhance patient outcome
- Reduce length of stay
- Improve antimicrobial stewardship and help ensure appropriate infection control procedures

If you have questions, please contact K. Warren, M.D. (218)249-6914, Microbiology Medical Director or Deborah Fischer, MT (ASCP) (218) 249-2479, Microbiology Technical Specialist.

St. Luke's Laboratory Services has recently developed a Web page which contains New Test Announcements.

<http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>