

Des Moines Laboratory Update

Date: April 21, 2022

Lead Level, Capillary Screening Minimum Volume

MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory has recently resumed in house testing for Lead Capillary Screening (Lead CAP). As a reminder, capillary EDTA lavender tubes **must be at least half full (400-500 uL)**.

We are experiencing an increase in the number of short samples received which could impact test results or delay reporting. Please refer to our online test catalog for more information.

<https://mercyonedesmoineslaboratory.testcatalog.org/show/LEAD-CAP>

Blood Culture Bottle Labeling

Our microbiology department will be going live with a highly automated blood culture system in the coming weeks. Key to this optimized workflow is the correct placement of patient identification labels on the blood culture bottles to enable capture of specimen barcode information. Multiple layers of patient labels should also be avoided to prevent instrument loading issues.

Please see diagram below for reference of where to place the label.

Place patient labels in the area indicated in **green** ONLY for ideal blood level detection performance.

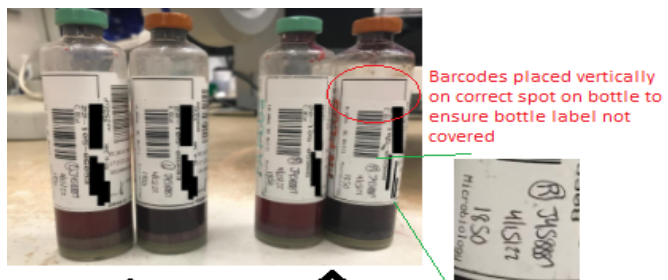
Red areas are not appropriate for label placement.



Reminder on appropriate labeling for blood culture collections:

One blood culture order includes a set of two blood culture samples – one for culture of aerobic organisms and one for anaerobic organisms. It is highly recommended to also include collector initials, date/time of collection, and draw site (right arm, left hand, etc).

If multiple blood culture orders are requested (i.e. two sites or 15 minutes apart), appropriate labeling to clearly identify two distinct sets is imperative to assist technologists in determining whether a positive culture is clinically significant or may be the result of a contaminated draw. Example: Anaerobic and aerobic bottle from first collection is labeled as SET #1 and bottles collected as part of the second collection are labeled as SET #2.



Barcodes placed vertically on correct spot on bottle to ensure bottle label not covered

Each bottle labeled with site, collector, date and time of collection



Two orders - two draws
Each order/draw has orange and green bottle
Each order/draw has unique accession number

Please contact Jill Noble at jill.noble@commonspirit.org with questions.