HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH CLUSTER
MATERNITY AND CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Microbiology)		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedures		
Title:	Gastric Lavage, Vomitus, Rectal Swab Culture in Cases of Food Poisoning		
Applies To:	All Laboratory Staff		
Preparation Date:	January 06, 2025	**Index No:**	LB-IPP-125
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1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To establish system and set responsibilities for processing Gastric Lavage / Rectal Swab cultures in cases of food poisoning.

2. DEFINITONS:

2.1 **Food borne intoxication** are caused by naturally occurring plant and animal poisons, by chemicals deliberately or accidentally added to food or by toxic metabolic products of bacteria, fungi and algae formed in food prior to ingestion (endotoxin).

2.2 **Food borne infections** are caused by the ingestion of microorganisms which induce a reaction in host tissue by penetration into the intestinal lumen or by production of enterotoxins within the lumen of the colonized bowel.

3. POLICY:

3.1 Acute infectious diarrhoea due to food poisoning may be caused by a number of different agents including bacteria, viruses and protozoa.

3.2 The laboratory routinely searches for those bacteria that are most likely to cause diarrhoea.

3.3 Inform ID & public health departments of any positive cultures for food poisoning pathogens.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 **Processing of specimens:**

4.1.1 Not routinely performed, upon special request.

4.1.2 Gram stain for faecal leukocyte may be performed.

4.2 **Culture:**

4.2.1 On receipt of the specimen, it is cultured on Blood agar, MacConkey's agar & selenite broth & incubated at 37° C for 18 - 24 hours.

4.2.2 Selenite broth is sub-cultured on XLD agar & incubated at 37° C for 18 - 24 hours.

4.3 **Interpretation of Cultures for salmonella & shigella:**

4.3.1 Non-Lactose Fermenter (NLF) (colourless or transparent) colonies, pick one colony of each suspect morphotype and examine by oxidase test, if positive, discard it & if negative examine specific Salmonella and Shigella agglutination tests.

4.3.2 Salmonella and Shigella agglutination tests must be performed from a non-selective medium.

4.3.3 For all positive cases do ID &AST.

4.4 **Interpretation of culture for S. aureus & B. cereus:**

4.4.1 Examine blood agar after 18-24 hours.

4.4.2 For all positive cases do ID &AST.

4.5 **Interpretation of Results:**

4.5.1 Negative Report: "No Salmonella, Shigella, nor S. aureus."

4.5.2 Positive Report:

4.5.2.1 Salmonella species with Serotyping & antibiotic susceptibility test.
4.5.2.2 Shigella species with Serotyping & antibiotic susceptibility test.
4.5.2.3 S. aureus OR B. cereus

4.5.3 Inform ID & public health departments of any positive cultures for food poisoning pathogens.

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

5.1 Liquid & solid culture media
5.2 Serotyping reagents
5.3 Microscan panels +/- Vitek II system ID & AST cards

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1 The assigned technician/ technologist for microbiology lab.
6.2 The C. Pathology Specialist/ Consultant.

7. APPENDICES:

7.1 NA

8. REFERENCES:

8.1 Procedure Manual, Toronto Medical laboratories / Mount Sinai Hospital department of microbiology, P.R. Murray, E.J. Baron, M.A. Pfaller, R.H. Yolken. 2003.
8.2 Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C. H.D. Izenberg. 2003.
8.3 Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology. Finegold& Baron; 12th. Ed.2007, C.V. Mosby Co. p. 301.
8.4 Annals of Clinical &Laboratory Science, Vol 8, No. 5; Copyright @1976, Institute for Clinical Science.

9. APPROVALS:

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Appendix 7.1

Organisms Encountered In Postoperative Wound Infections

1- Staphylococcus aureus.

2- Coagulase negative staphylococci.

3- Streptococcus pyogenes.

4- Streptococcus milleri group Streptococci.

5- Microaerobic Streptococci.

6- Enterococci. Proteus, Morganella, Providencia.

7- Other Enterobacteriaceae. E. coli. Pseudomonas spp.

8- Candida spp.

9- Bacteroid spp.

10- Prevotella & porphyromonas spp.

11- Fusobacterium spp.

12- Clostridium spp.

13- Peptostreptococcus spp.

14- Non spore forming bacilli, anaerobic, Gram positive rods