



Technical Bulletin

New Blood Culture Instruments and Bottles

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

FROM: Dr. A. Christian Whelen, PhD, D(ABMM)
V.P. - Technical Director (Microbiology)

Terrie Koyamatsu, M(ASCP) Dr. Wesley Kim, MD Dr. Ana Ortega-Lopez, MD
Manager, DLS Microbiology Medical Director DLS Medical Director QMC Punchbowl,
and QMC West North Hawaii and Molokai

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SUBJECT: New blood culture instruments & bottles are coming to Queen's System and DLS patient service centers

Detection of microbial pathogens in the blood of sick patients is one of the most critical services a clinical microbiology laboratory provides. Instrumentation continues to improve in this area allowing for improved recoveries over shorter time periods. Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. (DLS) has negotiated a 7-year contract for new blood culture instrumentation and supplies that will significantly increase safety and automation, and improve quality:

1. Increased safety by replacing glass bottles with plastic.
2. Instruments automatically load bottles, read fill status, and discard negatives improving quality and efficiency.
3. Expanded service agreement ensures minimal downtime.
4. May improve time to detection based on the literature.^{1,2}

The new instrument requires different collection supplies. Specimen collection information will be available on the DLS Test Directory website: <https://til.dlslab.com/>.

Anticipated launch dates for new blood culture bottles are dependent on the location:

DLS Central Microbiology:	September 16, 2019
Queen's West Oahu:	September 16, 2019
North Hawaii General Hospital:	October 14, 2019
DLS-Guam:	October 8, 2019

Current mycolytic bottles will remain in circulation for use when there is a suspicion of fungal or mycobacterial (AFB) infection. There are no changes to test codes:

619	Blood Culture
645B	Fungus Culture, Blood/Bone Marrow
646	AFB Blood/Bone Marrow

References:

¹Altun, O. et al. J. Clin. Microbiol., 2016. 54:1148-1151.

²Gherardi, G. Front. Microbio. 19 Feb 2019. 10:221.

Please refer any questions to Terrie Koyamatsu, Manager - DLS Microbiology Laboratory at 589-5196, or DLS Client Services at 589-5101.

Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc.

99-859 Iwaiwa Street – Aiea, HI 96701
(808) 589-5100 – www.dlslab.com