

Dr. Wendy Wells, MD, Chair, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, requests the following Clinical Laboratory update be distributed to MDs, PAs, House Staff, Nursing staff, and Regional Clients.

From: Isabella Martin, MD, Medical Director of Microbiology
Nisalda Carreiro, Microbiology Supervisor

To: All DH providers (physicians, associate providers and GME)

Subject: Earlier Identification of Bacteria and Yeast from Culture using New Method

Effective September 23rd, 2019, the microbiology laboratory has implemented a new method for the identification of bacteria and yeast from growth in culture. This technology—called “matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry” (MALDI-TOF MS)—allows species-level identification in minutes rather than hours or days using pure growth of an organism from an agar plate.

Ordering providers can expect to see bacteria and yeast identifications reported up to a day sooner than they have previously. This faster identification may provide new opportunities in some cases for de-escalation of empiric broad-spectrum antibiotics. However, antimicrobial susceptibility testing will still require an additional 24 hours.

Any questions can be directed to Isabella Martin, MD at 603.650.7171.

Date: October 7, 2019