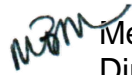





Memorandum – Micro #222

To: UNC Medical Center Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD
Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

 Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: New Rapidly Growing Mycobacteria (RGM) Screening Culture

Beginning March 27, 2023, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will offer a rapidly growing mycobacteria (RGM) screening culture (EPIC: “Rapid Grower Screen” Test ID: **LAB5076**). A routine bacterial culture must also be ordered, or it will automatically be added. Acceptable specimen types for the RGM screening culture are: respiratory samples from patients with cystic fibrosis (CF) and swabs from skin and soft tissue infections. If a biopsy or aspirate is obtained, order an AFB culture (LAB877) and submit specimen in a sterile cup.

For definitive diagnosis of RGM infections and for infections due to other *Mycobacterium* species, tissue or aspirate should be sent for AFB Culture (LAB877). Swabs are not acceptable for AFB culture, except for deep pharyngeal swabs from CF patients.

For the RGM screening culture, all routine collection methods for CF respiratory samples will be accepted. Wound swabs should be collected and submitted using any [Eswab Collection Kit](#) shown below.



Lawson # 054897 and 143675
BD Cat No.: 220246 and 220532
BD ESwab Collection Kit
Blue, Green, or White Cap w/ liquid amies and swab.
For the collection and transport of clinical specimens containing aerobes, anaerobes, and fastidious bacteria. *Tissue or aspirates are preferred specimen type for culture.

Additional information is available at the UNCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories website:
<https://www.unccmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tests/culture-rapid-grower-screen/>

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1805 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.