



Date: April 19, 2010

To: Medical Staff, Laboratory, and Key Personnel

From: John G. Newby, M.D. Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Newby".

Subject: Confirmation for Methicillin Resistance *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Blood Cultures

---

Hagerstown Medical Laboratory is implementing a new technology. The system is designed to detect MRSA from positive blood cultures. This provides a more objective, higher quality result than traditional methodology using fully automated real time polymerase chain reaction (rt-PCR). The procedure will be performed following positive *Staphylococcus aureus* result by Peptide Nucleic Acid Fluorescence In-Situ Hybridization probes (PNA-FISH).

This assay will differentiate between Methicillin Resistant and Methicillin Sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* within one hour. Our goal is to have the final identification within four hours of the initial positive blood culture. The susceptibility testing will be completed and finalized within twenty four hours.

The laboratory is continuously striving to utilize our available resources to provide you and your patients with the most up to date, clinically relevant and cost-effective test methods available.

We welcome your comments on this change and other laboratory issues. Please feel free to contact me at (301) 665-4900 or Chanhpheng Phengvath, Microbiology Technical Specialist at (301) 665- 4936 with any microbiology questions or comments.