



Date: December 3, 2009

To: Medical Staff, Laboratory, and Key Personnel

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

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

**RE: Change in Fecal Culture Processing and Reporting**

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Effective November 30, 2009, Hagerstown Medical Laboratory will be changing its protocol for screening stool specimens for enteric pathogens to comply with new and revised regulations.

First, the modified routine fecal culture (FCUL) screening will include:

*E. coli 0157:H7 and Salmonella, Shigella, and Campylobacter species.*

Potential pathogens, such as *Aeromonas species*, *Plesomonas species* or predominance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* or yeast, will still be reported on routine fecal cultures.

Second, other pathogens will need to be specified on the requisition to have the specimen properly inoculated and tested. Other enteric pathogens that might be requested include *Vibrio species* and *Yersinia species*.

Third, if you only specify on the requisition for *E. coli 0157:H7*, the laboratory will only screen and report this particular organism and only report out as "NO *E.coli 0157:H7* Isolated" or "*E. coli 0157:H7* Isolated" with NO susceptibility testing.

This change is part of the laboratory's continuing effort to utilize its available resources to provide the clinician with most relevant and cost effective testing methods available. We welcome your feedback. Please feel free to contact me at (301) 665-4900 or Chanhpheng Phengvath "CP", Microbiology Technical Specialist at (301) 665- 4936 with any questions or comments.