microbiology testing services
Get To Know Spectra Laboratories
Microbiology Services

You already know Spectra Laboratories for a wide array of dialysis-related testing services. Now get to know us for your microbiology needs.

As the leading provider of renal-specific testing services, we understand the special needs of your dialysis patients. We routinely deliver comprehensive microbiology culture handling, analyses and reporting with the consistency and accuracy you expect.

Timely, accurate results
seven days a week.

Experience You Can Depend On

Our Clinical Laboratory Scientists have years of clinical microbiology experience, training and knowledge-ensuring expert handling of your cultures. Our Microbiology Managers and Medical Directors have decades of clinical experience should you need to discuss specific needs, results or interpretations.
Helping You Improve Patient Outcomes

Spectra Laboratories has been at the forefront of the renal industry for nearly 30 years. Our programs enhance the treatment and outcomes of your dialysis patients, and continue to set new standards in quality and service:

State-of-the-Art Analysis Methods

As bacteria become resistant to more antibiotics, physicians need to know what kind of microbe is present and which antibiotic will be most effective. That’s why Spectra Laboratories uses the advanced bacterial identification and susceptibility technology in the Vitek® 2 Automated System.

The technology uses preformed enzymes to rapidly identify organisms. In some cases, identification can occur in as little as three hours and with the Vitek System’s extensive knowledge base of phenotypes, susceptibility can be completed in as few as six hours.

Using the Bact/ALERT® 3D Microbial Detection System, Spectra Laboratories can incubate, agitate and continuously monitor aerobic and anaerobic media inoculated with blood, PD Fluid Cultures, and Body Fluid Cultures from patients suspected of having bacteremia/fungemia or fluid infection. This means we can detect positive cultures in as little as two hours from the time of incubation in the instrument.

Reproducible Reports

- Standardized protocols and instrumentation

Data-Driven Interpretation Guidelines

- Advanced Expert System for susceptibility reporting
- Antibiograms

Rapid, Comprehensive Reporting System

- Critical microbiology results faxed every 2-6 hours
- Immediate, direct notification of positive growth results
- Customizable reporting
- Sunday Notification Program

Unparalleled Customer Support

- Microbiology supply guide
- Collection kits
- Reference guide
- Easy ordering system
Antibiogram Reports

Because Spectra Laboratories is focused on the renal industry, we can provide unique and valuable data to assist you in managing your clinical operation. As a complement to individual patient reports, we offer an Annual Antibiogram Report, which is derived from a microbiology database of all dialysis patient results. The report is sorted in three user-friendly formats:

1. Source   2. Facility Specific   3. Corporate Group

Spectra Laboratories Antibiogram 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAM NEGATIVE</th>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Antibiogram</th>
<th>Antibiogram</th>
<th>Antibiogram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAM POSITIVE</th>
<th>Organism</th>
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</table>

Percentage of susceptible organisms

Spectra Laboratories Antibiogram 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009
The Life of a Blood Culture at Spectra Laboratories

1. As bottles are received at the lab, CO₂ sensors are visually scanned by qualified personnel for positive cultures.

2. If bottles are received negative, they are incubated in our automated BacT/ALERT System for up to five days. A preliminary negative report will be issued at 2 hours post receipt, after 24 hours, and on each subsequent day until final.

3. If the bottles are visually positive upon receipt, or flagged as positive by the BacT/ALERT System anytime during the incubation period, a smear (gram stain) is performed by qualified personnel for preliminary classification of microorganisms. Bottles are then subcultured on plated agar media for growth.

4. A technologist compares the gram stain results to the organism growing on the plated agar media and proceeds with setting up identification and susceptibilities. (Identification and susceptibilities performed by the Vitek 2 XL System are typically achieved within 6-8 hours from set-up time).

5. The technologist reports all of the identifications and susceptibilities completed by the Vitek System. The majority of identifications and susceptibilities will be reported on the day following growth on plated agar media unless there are unusual or rare organisms.
Microbiology Testing Services

- Catheter exit site culture
- Anaerobic culture
- Sputum culture
- Nasopharyngeal/throat culture
- Urine
  - Culture, colony count
  - Routine urinalysis
- KOH Prep
- Genital culture
- Fungal culture
- Gram stains
- Environmental
  - Water for colony count
  - Dialysate for colony count
  - Reuse sterile dialyzer fluid for colony count
  - Bicarbonate solution for colony count
  - Endotoxin
- Stools
  - Clostridium difficile culture and toxin assays
  - Routine culture
  - WBC (fecal leukocytes)
  - Occult blood
  - Ova and parasite
- Catheter tip culture
- Blood culture
- Wound culture
- Ear/Eye culture
- MRSA/VRE screen
- Body fluid culture
- Peritoneal Fluid
  - PD fluid, effluent, culture
  - Gram stain
  - Cell counts

Antibiotic susceptibility performed on pathogens based on standards as defined by CLSI.

Licensed by multiple states, including the New York State Department of Health and the California State Department of Health, our facilities are CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act) certified and accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). Our microbiology laboratories are also certified and uphold the strict standards set forth by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC), Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), as well as the New York State ELAP (Environmental Laboratory Approval Program).