



## Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

**Date:** July 19, 2016

**To:** All Physicians and Healthcare Staff in Churchill, MB

**From:** Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director Clinical Microbiology, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba  
Joelle Carlson, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba

**Re:** Transfer of Microbiology Testing from Churchill Health Centre to St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, MB

### TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

**Effective July 25, 2016** ALL specimens submitted to the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory for Microbiology testing, where testing was previously performed onsite, will now be sent to St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) – Clinical Microbiology in Winnipeg, MB for testing. Please ensure a SBH – Clinical Microbiology requisition is completed for these specimens (see poster attached to this notice). Result turnaround times will remain unchanged.

### Why is the Microbiology work being transferred out of the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory?

The primary reasons for this work transfer are a combination of low Microbiology test volumes received by the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory and ongoing staffing challenges which have created Microbiology testing competency issues for Laboratory Technologists. This issue has become chronic and a workable resolution appears improbable. To ensure quality test results are provided to healthcare providers ordering Microbiology tests through the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory, the decision was made to transfer all Microbiology testing to the St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) Clinical Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg as that laboratory can accommodate the additional testing volumes and a reliable, established, daily air transportation route is available. In addition, some work that historically went to Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) will now be referred to the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory for testing (specifically, stool cultures for enteric pathogens, including *C. difficile* testing, all fungal cultures, and VRE screens).

### When will the Microbiology work transition out of Churchill?

**Effective July 25, 2016**, all specimens sent for Microbiology testing to the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory will be transported to the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory for processing and reporting.

### What changes in test ordering will occur?

The attached poster (which can be printed and posted for laboratory users) provides a summary of the changes. The poster lists Microbiology tests that were previously referred out by the Churchill Laboratory to CPL which will now be sent with all other Microbiology specimens to the SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. There are 3 exceptions to this change. All mycobacteriology (AFB) testing as well as testing for *Bordetella pertussis* and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) will continue to be sent to the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) in Winnipeg using a DSM HSC Clinical Microbiology Laboratory requisition. All virology, serology, molecular STI, and ova and parasite testing will continue to be referred to CPL using a CPL requisition. Rapid Group A Streptococcus antigen testing and infectious mononucleosis testing will remain available onsite at the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory.

All Microbiology specimens sent to the SBH Microbiology Laboratory will require a completed DSM SBH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory requisition (i.e., change from a Churchill Health Centre Laboratory requisition to a DSM SBH Clinical Microbiology requisition). Requisitions will be available in the Churchill Health Centre Laboratory or are available on line at: <https://apps.sbgh.mb.ca/labmanualviewer/index.do>

If you require further information, please contact Dr. James Karlowsky or Joelle Carlson at 204-237-2484.



## Effective July 25, 2016, ALL Churchill Microbiology work will be sent to St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) – Microbiology

**SBH Microbiology Lab Hours of Operation:** Weekdays: 0800-2200 hrs  
Weekends and Holidays: 0800-2200 hrs



**Report Inquiry:** SBH Microbiology (204) 237-2484

**Patient care related:** SBH Microbiology (204) 237-2484  
ask for site Microbiologist

**Microbiology Service concerns:** Contact the Discipline Team:  
Technical Director: Joelle Carlson (204) 237-2073  
Medical Director: Dr. James Karlowsky (204) 237-2105

1. For ALL Microbiology tests previously done in Churchill that are now being done at SBH: **Complete a DSM SBH Microbiology Requisition**

### Tests Previously Performed by CPL Now Provided by SBH:

- Stool culture – enteric pathogens
- Stool – *C. difficile* toxin
- Fungal Cultures
- VRE screens (request only)

2. For tests done at CPL: **Complete a CPL Requisition**

### Tests only offered at Cadham Provincial Laboratory

- Ova & Parasites examination on stool samples
- Viral testing: Culture/Electron Microscopy/Antigen Detection/HIV viral loads
- Serology: HIV/Other viruses/*H. pylori*/ fungi, parasite, VDRL
- STI: GC/Chlamydia – (non culture – NAAT); Chlamydia – Microtrak
- Newborn metabolic screens