



Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic Laboratories

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Cleveland Clinic Laboratories is dedicated to keeping you updated and informed about recent testing changes. That's why we are happy to provide this technical update on a monthly basis.

Cleveland Clinic Laboratories is making a change in the reporting of Mycobacterial species of which we wanted to make you aware. Currently, clients are notified by telephone when an AFB culture is positive by either direct smear, or when there is growth on laboratory media. A second notification is made when the final species identification is determined. With the exception of identification of *M. tuberculosis*, we will be discontinuing telephone notification of the final species name. We will continue to notify you when the culture is initially positive.

Beginning October 14th, the following comment will be included with the initial, positive culture result:

"Please consult medical record for mycobacterial species. Identification testing is performed weekly."

When we result the final identification of species other than *M. tuberculosis* e.g. *MAI*, or *M. abscessus* we will include this comment:

"Susceptibility testing is not routinely performed. Please contact Microbiology (216.444.9573) within 4 weeks if susceptibility testing is clinically indicated."

All isolates will be saved on solid media for a month, but at least one isolate per patient will be stored in the freezer for several years.

For additional detail or any questions, please contact Client Services at 216.444.5755 or 800.628.6816 or via email at clientservices@ccf.org.