pathlab

January 2016

Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics are moving

The weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th January 2016, Pathlab will be moving all microbiology and molecular diagnostics services into the new dedicated laboratory building on the Tauranga Hospital campus.

On Monday 25th January we will be commissioning the new BD Kiestra Total Laboratory Automation line in the new laboratory. This is the only microbiology automated line of its type in New Zealand and the largest system in the Southern Hemisphere. It will enable automated processing of Eswabs and urines, along with a variety of other specimens. Culture plates will be digitally imaged after specified incubation periods enabling on-line reading and reporting of specimens. This system provides improved quality, reproducibility, and traceability for microbiology specimens and associated culture plates.

What does this mean for you?

There will be some changes to how we report no growth and normal flora growth results. For example:

- "No growth" reports will state just that and not an associated time period, as the continuous instrument monitoring and standardised incubation periods mean previous reported times like, "No growth after 48 hours incubation" are no longer appropriate.
- Specimens that only grow normal flora will have that stated (e.g. "Normal skin flora isolated."), but no semi-quantitation (i.e. no light, moderate, or heavy).
- Note: When a specific bacteria is reported it will still state the semi-quantitation.

There may be some delays in reporting of results during the move and commissioning period. Once all systems are fully commissioned and we introduce the new 24/7 roster we anticipate reductions in turn-around-time for some specimen types.

How can you help us?

- Where at all possible please keep non-urgent microbiology specimens to a minimum during our move and automation commissioning period.
- Please be patient with regard to any delays in receiving reports. We will be doing our best to minimise these, but if a result is urgent or you consider the delay to be excessive please contact the microbiology department.
- Correct labelling of tubes, i.e. no "flags", "tags", "tails" or over the lid, if using stick-on labels. Please refer Clinical Update – Specimen labelling of Eswabs and Urine collection tubes.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the microbiology department or on-call microbiologist.

Murray Robinson, Lead of Specialty Jan Bird, Charge Scientist

CLINICAL UPDATE