



## Specimen Processing for Mycobacteria

As of 28th of August 2013 all specimens for Mycobacteria direct smear and culture, received at Pathlab will be sent to Waikato Hospital Microbiology for processing.

### Reasons for this change

- The new **PC3 laboratory** is now operational at Waikato Hospital and this is the recommended facility for processing specimens for Mycobacteria.
- This change will also ensure standardisation of Mycobacterial specimen processing across the region. Previously Waikato Hospital laboratory has been the regional referral centre (for Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Lakes regions) for all Mycobacterium identifications and susceptibilities.

### Urgent Microscopy (ZN Stain) On Bay of Plenty Hospital Specimens

- Urgent ZN will be available at Tauranga Microbiology, only after prior consultation with the Clinical Microbiologist.

### Specimen Collection

- For specimens requiring both for routine microbiology and mycobacteria culture, ideally **two separate specimens** should be sent. This will assist in minimising delays in sending on specimens.
- **Please note if there is only a single specimen requiring both, then it will receive routine microbiology at the local laboratory, before being sent on for mycobacteria processing.**

### Specimen Transport

- Specimens from the Waikato community will be directed to Waikato Hospital from Pathlab Waikato.
- Specimens from the Bay of Plenty (hospital and community) will be sent on the afternoon courier to Waikato Hospital.

## **Specimen Processing and Results**

- Waikato Hospital Microbiology will batch all mycobacterium specimens and put this batch up each week day morning.
- Negative smear and culture results will be reported as per current HL7 reporting mechanisms.
- Positive smear and culture results will be phoned to the requesting clinician and reported as per current HL7 reporting mechanisms.
- Telephone enquires with regard to the progress/identification/susceptibilities on specific mycobacteria specimens should be directed to Waikato Hospital Microbiology.
- General specimen enquiries, courier queries or delayed specimen queries should be directed to the Microbiology laboratory in your region (i.e. Pathlab Waikato or Pathlab Bay of Plenty).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change.

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**CLINICAL UPDATE**

Please note: All Clinical Updates are now on the Clinician page on our website.  
[www.pathlab.co.nz](http://www.pathlab.co.nz)

If you would like to receive these updates via e-mail please forward your details to:  
[Jo.Sherwood@pathlab.co.nz](mailto:Jo.Sherwood@pathlab.co.nz)