

Baseline Laboratory Survey of Bacterial Stool Culture Practices

SECTION A

1. Name of laboratory
2. State
9. Date form completed

SECTION B

10. Which of the following BEST describes the type of laboratory this is?

- 1=hospital-based laboratory
- 2=independent (that is, non-hospital-based) laboratory
- 3=other explain

11. Does your laboratory receive any stool specimens for bacterial culture?

- yes [continue questionnaire]
- no [stop here and return questionnaire in enclosed envelope]

12. Are the results of stool cultures processed in your laboratory recorded electronically (that is, using a computer)?

- 1=yes
- 2=no
- 9=don't know

13. Does your laboratory perform ANY on-site bacterial stool culture testing?

- 1=yes, our laboratory performs stool cultures on site
[GO TO SECTION C, top of p. 2]
- 2=no, ALL stool specimens for culture are sent to another laboratory
[answer the remaining questions on this page
(Questions 14 and 15) and return questionnaire enclosed envelope]

14. To what laboratory are stool specimens usually sent?

15. Does that laboratory typically report the results back to your laboratory?

- 1=yes
- 2=no
- 9=don't know

SECTION C

16. How many stool cultures were performed IN YOUR LABORATORY from August 1 to August 31, 1995?

17. Of those stool cultures, how many were obtained from inpatients and how many from outpatients? [if actual numbers not available, please give an estimate]

inpatients outpatients

18. Are these the actual numbers or estimates?

1=actual numbers 2=estimates

19. Which of the following descriptions characterize the population that your laboratory serves? (mark yes or no)

patients seen at a tertiary care hospital (that is, a major referral hospital for the area) and/or its affiliated clinics

patients seen at a primary care community hospital and/or its affiliated clinics

patients seen in private physicians' offices and/or other outpatient clinics

other (explain <A >) don't know

20. For ROUTINE stool cultures, are stools tested for the same organisms regardless of whether the patient is an inpatient or an outpatient?

1=yes [GO TO SECTION D] 2=no 9=don't know

[If NO]: 21. Please describe in detail how routine stool cultures for inpatients differ from routine stool cultures for outpatients:

[For the rest of the questionnaire, please indicate your laboratory's practice for culturing OUTPATIENT stools.

SECTION D

22. Of the following organisms, which are ALWAYS tested for IN YOUR LABORATORY when an outpatient stool culture is ordered (that is, no specific requests are made by a clinician and no specific criteria needs to be met, such as whether or not the stool is watery)? [1=yes 2=no 9=don't know]

Salmonella
Shigella
Campylobacter

E. coli O157

Other E. coli

(such as enterotoxigenic E. coli or non-O157 Shiga-like toxin producing E. coli)

if YES, which E. coli?

Vibrios

Yersinia

other

(if YES to OTHER, please list):<A >

SECTION E

23. In addition to the organisms for which you checked YES for Question 22 on page 2, which of the following organisms will be tested for IN YOUR LABORATORY if specifically requested by the physician?
[1=yes 2=no 9=don't know]

Salmonella

Shigella

Campylobacter

E. coli O157

Other E. coli

(such as enterotoxigenic E. coli or non-O157 Shiga-like toxin producing E. coli)
if YES, which E. coli?

Vibrios

Yersinia

other

(if YES to OTHER, please list) <A >

SECTION F

24. Do you ever (ie, either routinely or upon physician request) send stool specimens to another laboratory (besides the state public health laboratory) for primary isolation of bacterial pathogens? PRIMISOL
1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If NO or DON'T KNOW]: GO TO SECTION G (top of page 4)

[If YES]:

25. For isolation of which of the following organisms do you send stool specimens

to another laboratory? [1=yes 2=no 9=don't know]

Salmonella

Shigella

Campylobacter

E. coli O157

Other E. coli,

(such as enterotoxigenic E. coli or non-O157 Shiga-like toxin producing E. coli)

(if YES, which E. coli

Vibrios

Yersinia

other

(if YES to OTHER, please list)

26. To what laboratory are stool specimens usually sent?

27. Does that laboratory typically report the results back to your laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

SECTION G

The next questions ask about how your laboratory's stool culturing practice may vary according to the characteristics of the stool. That is, without a specific request from the physician, does your laboratory change its culture practices for any of the following stool characteristics?

28. In addition to the organisms for which you checked YES for Question 22 on page 2, are other organisms cultured for if the stool is watery?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 29. Which organism(s)?

30. In addition to the organisms for which you checked YES for Question 22 on page 2, are other organisms cultured for if the stool has a high fecal leukocyte count on microscopic inspection?

1=yes 2=no 3=not applicable (don't test for fecal leukocytes) 9=don't know

[If YES]: 31. Which organism(s)?

32. In addition to the organisms for which you checked YES for Question 22 on page 2, are other organisms cultured for if the stool is bloody?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 33. Which organism(s)? <A >

[If YES]: 34. How is the stool determined to be bloody?

gross inspection
microscopic inspection
test for occult blood
patient or physician report
other

SECTION H

Without a specific request from the physician, does your laboratory vary its culture practices for any of the following patient characteristics, if that characteristic is known? If the patient characteristic listed is never known by the laboratory, please check NA for not applicable.
[1=yes 2=no 3=not applicable 9=don't know]

35. Children

[If YES]: 36. Describe what is done differently and for what ages:

37. Travel history

[If YES]: 38. Describe: <A >

39. Patient is immunocompromised

[If YES]: 40. Describe:

41. Are there other criteria used to decide what organisms to culture for? CRITERIA

[If YES]: 42. Please explain these criteria<A > CRITCHG

SECTION I

The next set of questions concern testing for E. coli O157.

43. What is your laboratory's policy regarding testing for E. coli O157?
Does YOUR LABORATORY perform testing for E. coli O157...

... on all stools submitted for culture?
... on all bloody stools?
... on physician request?
... on stools from patients with the hemolytic uremic syndrome?

- ... on stools from children? (if YES, ages)
- ... using other criteria? (explain)
- ... our laboratory never tests for E. coli O157 [Go to SECTION J]

44. What method does YOUR LABORATORY use to test for E. coli O157?
1=plate on sorbitol-MacConkey (SMAC) agar and pick sorbitol negative colonies
2=pick colonies from MacConkey agar and test for sorbitol fermentation
3=other (describe
45. Once sorbitol negative colonies are detected, which of following are done in YOUR LABORATORY?
... perform a test to detect the O157 antigen (such as agglutination)
... perform biochemical tests to identify it as E. coli
... send isolate to state laboratory or other reference laboratory
... other (
46. If a colony is determined in YOUR LABORATORY to be sorbitol negative AND O157 positive, what is done about H typing? [please check ALL that apply]

... perform H type testing in your laboratory
... send isolate to state laboratory or other reference laboratory
... no further testing is done on isolate and isolate is not sent out
... not applicable (we do not perform O157 antigen testing in our lab)
... other (<A >

SECTION J

The next set of questions deals with subtyping of Salmonella and Shigella.

47. Are isolates of Salmonella serogrouped (A through Z) IN YOUR LABORATORY?
1=yes 2=no 9=don't know
- [If YES]: 48. Which serogroups?
49. Are isolates of Salmonella serotyped IN YOUR LABORATORY?
1=yes 2=no 9=don't know
50. Are isolates of Shigella serogrouped or speciated IN YOUR LABORATORY?
1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 51. Which serogroups or species?

SECTION K

These questions have to do with reporting and forwarding of bacterial enteric pathogens.

52. Are isolates of E. coli O157 REPORTED from your laboratory to either the local or state health department or to the state public health laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 53. To where are they reported?

54. Are isolates of E. coli O157 in your laboratory FORWARDED to either the local or state public health laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

55. Are isolates of Salmonella REPORTED from your laboratory to either the local or state health department or to the state public health laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 56. To where are they reported?

57. Are isolates of Salmonella FORWARDED to either the local or state public health laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

58. Are isolates of Shigella REPORTED from your laboratory to either the local or state health department or to the state public health laboratory?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: To where are they reported?

59. Are isolates of Shigella FORWARDED to either the local or state public health laboratory?

1= yes 2=no 9=don't know

SECTION L

The next 3 questions have to do with testing stool isolates for antimicrobial

susceptibility.

60. Are ANY isolates recovered from stool cultures in your laboratory routinely tested for antimicrobial susceptibility?

1=yes 2=no 9=don't know

[If YES]: 61. Which organisms do you routinely test for antimicrobial susceptibility?

[If YES]: 62. What method or methods are used to determine susceptibility?

- ... Disk diffusion
- ... Vitek automated system
- ... Microscan automated system
- ... E-test
- ... Other (list)

SECTION M

The last question has to do with your perceived role in educating physicians regarding the appropriate tests to order.

63. If a physician were to order only a stool for ova and parasites in a case in which a bacterial stool culture was indicated (for example, a grossly bloody stool specimen), what would be your response?

- ... contact physician and suggest that he/she order a bacterial stool culture
- ... not contact physician and perform stool for ova and parasites only
- ... without contacting the physician, perform both stool for ova and parasites and bacterial stool culture
- ... other (list)

This ends the questionnaire. Thank you very much for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.

To be completed by investigator at multicenter site:
How was this questionnaire completed initially?

1=mail or fax

2=in-person interview

3=via telephone

Were any answers verified with a follow-up telephone interview?

1=yes Which questions?

2=no

Date questionnaire received (or interview completed)

Name of investigator