

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER LABORATORIES
TEST ANNOUNCEMENT
Body Fluid Culture with Gram Stain

08/16/2024

A Body Fluid Culture will be available to order starting August 23, 2024. This culture is to be used in place of the current Sterile Fluid and Tissue culture (LAB898) when a body fluid has been collected. See below for test ordering information.

The test catalog has been updated to reflect the intended specimen types for Tissue and Body Fluid Cultures. The Body Fluid Culture is intended for sterile body fluids, not abscess, tissue, or swab specimens. If the specimen type does not match the order type, it will be reordered using the appropriate culture. Please see Meriter Laboratory’s Test Catalog for more information on appropriate specimen types.

	Current In-House Test	New In-House Test
Test Name	Sterile Tissue of Fluid Culture	Body Fluid Culture
Epic EAP	LAB898	LAB269
SQ Code	ZCXSTR	ZCXBF

	Current In-House Test	New	New
Test Name	Sterile Fluid or Tissue Culture	Body Fluid Culture	Tissue Culture
Epic/SQ	ZCXSTR	ZCXBF	ZCXSTR
Specimen	Sterile tissue or body fluid	Sterile Body Fluid	Sterile Tissue
Unacceptable samples		Tissue	Body Fluids

Test Name: Body Fluid Culture

Performing Laboratory: Meriter Laboratories

Methodology: Culture

Specimen Requirements: Body fluid in sterile container. Additionally, an ACT II vial can be sent for anaerobic culture, up to 5 ml.

Specimen Handling and Transport: Ambient. Return to lab as soon as possible, up to 24 hours.

Performed: Monday through Sunday

Turn-around Time: 5 days

CPT: 87070, 87075, 87205, additional codes may apply.

Culture Options Available for Specimens Not Included in the Tissue or Body Fluid Cultures:

	Current	Current
Test Name	Bacterial Culture	Wound Culture
Epic EAP	LAB5092	LAB503
SQ Code	ZCXBAC	ZCXWND
Specimen	Abscess, cyst, ear, eye, nose, skin, or genital	Wound/Abscess or ulcer

If you have any questions, please call the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Laboratories Client Services Department at 608-417-6529 or 1-800-236-0465.