

Blood Culture Bottles Contamination with *Acinetobacter baumannii*

Date: October 4, 2021

Dear Regional Pathology Services Clients,

Per the manufacturer and a Nationwide issue, specific lots of blood culture bottles are contaminated with *Acinetobacter baumannii* DNA thus causing false positive detection of *A. baumannii* on our BCID2 BioFire PCR platform. To address this issue, we have devised the following protocol.

If the Gram stain indicates no gram negative bacteria, but BCID2 detects *A. baumannii*, the *A. baumannii* target will not be reported in the BCID2 report.

If, however, the Gram stain shows gram negative bacteria and BCID2 detects *A. baumannii* it will be reported along with any other gram negative species, such as *E. coli*. Note that if the patient is truly infected with *A. baumannii*, it will be detected in culture.

It should be noted that *A. baumannii* bloodstream infections are rare at Nebraska Medicine. Since May of 2020, we have had 6 positive blood cultures with *A. baumannii* (0.2%). Therefore, if *A. baumannii* is detected by the BCID2 along with another gram negative species, antibiotic escalation to cover treatment of *A. baumannii* is not recommended unless the patient has a current known infection with *A. baumannii* or has a history of *A. baumannii* infections. The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team will continue to review blood culture results during business hours and is available to provide guidance on antimicrobial management.

In addition, until the contamination issue is resolved, the following comment will be amended to the BCID2 report when *A. baumannii* is detected. No bottle recall has been issued yet.

“Certain lot numbers of blood culture bottles currently in use may be contaminated with *A. baumannii* DNA. Please refer to the results of the blood culture for confirmation.”

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kathie Rogers, PhD (402-552-3313 or katrogers@nebraskamed.com) or Paul D. Fey, PhD (phone 402-559-2122, pager 402-888-5626, email: pfey@unmc.edu)

If you have any questions or issues with these changes, please contact client services at 402-559-6420 and ask to speak with one of the client coordinators.