



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NEW TEST **TEST CHANGE**

NOTIFICATION DATE: 10/26/2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

Culture ENT [Ear, Nose, Throat] (C ENT)

On the effective date, a new microbiology test order (Culture ENT / C ENT) will be added to request bacterial culture of specimens obtained from the ear, nasal/sinus, or throat to establish the etiology of sinusitis and related infections, as well in cases of complicated infections of the throat requiring an **extensive microbiological workup**.

The new test **C ENT REPLACES bacterial** culture of body fluids (**C BF**) from the following sources:
Aspirate, Ear, Nasal aspirate, Nasal wash, Paranasal and Sinus

C ENT should NOT be used for routine testing of patients with pharyngitis. For routine pharyngitis testing, continue to order the **Strep Throat PCR (STREPPCR)**. A less sensitive, culture-based identification is also available: **Throat Culture (C TH)**. Both assays will identify the *Streptococcus* bacteria associated with pharyngitis.

For **fungal sinusitis**, **continue** to order “**Culture Fungal Body Fluid**” (**F BF**) separately, as cultures for fungi are different from those used for bacteria.

- Indicate specific specimen source
- Specimen types are the same as C ENT (see above)

Nose/nares cultures (**C NOSE**) and nasopharyngeal cultures (**C NP**) **should NOT be used for diagnosis of sinusitis or related infections**: These culture types have poor clinical correlation and very limited utility. Namely:

C NOSE may be used as an alternative for detection of *S. aureus* carriage (only *MRSA/MSSA* will be reported). But the preferred test for nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* is **MRSA/MSSA PCR**, as this test is more sensitive than culture-based testing.

Nasopharyngeal cultures (**C NP**) may be used for detection of *Neisseria meningitidis* carriage (only *N. meningitidis* will be reported). If *Bordetella pertussis* is suspected, a separate pertussis PCR (**D PERT**) can be ordered.

Culture Ear, Nose and Throat (C ENT)

Computer Interface Code: **PDM # 2062082**

Test Order: **C ENT**

Methodology: Culture

Specimen Requirements:

| Container | Specimen | Transport Temperature | Transport time |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Screw-capped, sterile container | 1ml (minimum) nasal aspirate/wash | Room temperature | Maintain sterility and forward promptly |
| Swab | Throat/Ear/Nose Swab (ESwab preferred) | | |

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (516) 719-1100.