



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NEW TEST **TEST CHANGE**

NOTIFICATION DATE: 04/19/2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/27/2022

Culture Joint Fluid (C JOINT)

On the effective date Northwell Health Laboratories will implement a new microbiology test order **Culture Joint Fluid (C JOINT)**.

The **Culture Joint Fluid (C JOINT)** test will identify any potentially pathogenic aerobic and anaerobic organisms, and cultures will be held for 14 days for *Cutibacterium* species (previously *Propionibacterium*). The test will include Gram stain and, if indicated, susceptibility testing.

The Culture Joint Fluid (C JOINT) test is intended to aid in the diagnosis of septic joints or bacterial arthritis, and should now be ordered in place of the previous orderables such as Body Culture Fluid (C BF) or Culture-Other (C OTH).

The joint/synovial fluid sources acceptable for the new test order **Culture Joint Fluid (C JOINT)** are the following: *Knee, Shoulder, Hip, Wrist, Elbow, Ankle, Finger* and *Toe*. The exact sources/locations within the joint should be clearly indicated when multiple specimens are submitted.

Test Requirements	Culture Joint Fluid
Specimen Container:	Screw-capped, sterile container
Specimen Volume/Minimum Volume:	0.5 mL (minimum) synovial / joint fluid
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
CPT Codes	87070, 87075, 87205
Computer Interface Code:	PDM# 227066
Test Order:	C JOINT

Note: Submissions of swabs are *strongly discouraged*, as swabs represent suboptimal specimens with decreased sensitivity and Gram stain cannot be performed.

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