Loyola University
Chicago Comparative
Medicine Facility

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5626**
Service: **Research**
Operating Section: **Laboratory**
Unit: **CMF**
Title: **Performing a Campylobacter Culture**

Purpose:
To detect and identify *Campylobacter* organisms in a fecal or rectal sample.

Procedure

1) Log the sample into the lab accession log book and assign a lab accession number.
2) The sample may be held by placing an aliquot into a tube of sterile thioglycollate broth and placing it in the sample refrigerator.
3) Swab an aliquot of the stool sample directly onto a blood agar or campy agar plate. If the sample was held in broth, using a sterile 10ul inoculating loop, transfer an aliquot to the agar plate and streak. Place the plate in a Bio-bag or the Gas-Pak jar with activated Campy gas generator. Incubate the plates at least 72 hours in a 42° C incubator.
4) Examine plates for growth. *Campylobacter spp.* colonies are non-hemolytic, translucent or grey on blood agar, moist, and often spreading. If plates have been incubated for 72 hours and there are no suspect colonies, the sample is negative for Campylobacter spp.
5) Perform an oxidase test on suspect colonies. *Campylobacter spp.* is oxidase positive. If positive result is found, continue to next step. If plates have been incubated for 72 hours and there are no oxidase positive colonies, the sample is negative for *Campylobacter spp.*
6) Make a gram stain of isolated colonies increasing safranin counterstain to 3 minutes. *Campylobacter spp.* are curved, non-spore-forming, gram negative rods which may form spirals or seagull s-wing shapes. If plates have been incubated for 72 hours and there are no suspect colonies, the sample is negative for *Campylobacter spp.*
7) Identify suspect organisms using bacterial identification strips or system.

Results

1) Results will be reported as "Negative for Campylobacter" after 72 hours if no such organisms are identified.
2) Microorganisms identified as Campylobacter will be reported to genus and species when possible.
3) Verification testing by alternate methods and outside laboratories may be completed as appropriate.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature			**Date** 12/06/2017
QA Signature			**Date** 12/06/2017
Version #2	**Effective Date**	**Supersedes** #1	**Original Date**