Loyola University Chicago Comparative Medicine Facility

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-5627

Service: Research

Operating Section: Laboratory

Unit: CMF

Title: Performing a Salmonella-Shigella Culture

Purpose:

To detect and identify Salmonella and Shigella 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) Using a sterile 10ul inoculating loop, transfer and streak out an aliquot to a Salmonella/Shigella (S/S) agar plate labeled with the lab accession number. Incubate plates at least 24 hours in a 37°C incubator.
- 3) Examine plates for growth. Salmonella spp. colonies will be colorless with or without black centers. Shigella spp. colonies will be colorless. Isolate suspect colonies to blood agar plate with a sterile loop or needle. Incubate 24 hours in a 37°C incubator.
- 4) Make a gram stain of isolated colonies. *Salmonella spp.* are bright pink, gram negative, bacilli often arranged in pair or clumps. *Shigella spp.* are long, light pink, gram negative, bacilli often arranged in pairs or chains.
- 5) Identify organisms using Analytical Profile Index (API) test strips.

Results

- 1) Results will be reported as "Negative" if no Salmonella nor Shigella organisms are identified.
- 2) Microorganisms identified as Salmonella or Shigella will be reported to genus and species when possible.
- Verification testing by alternate methods and outside laboratories may be completed as appropriate.

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