



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Capital Health Physicians
Health Service Manages
Nursing Units and Clinics

FROM: Ross Davidson, PhD FCCM D (ABMM)
Director, Bacteriology

DATE: December 16, 2014

RE: Potential Contamination in Blood Culture Bottles

Recently, the Microbiology Laboratory became aware that a specific lot number (**4220837**) of the BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F Culture Vials appear to contain contaminating material. On Gram stain, this material appears as small Gram-positive cocci. At present, we are unclear what this contaminating material is (biological or otherwise). To date, no culture has flagged positive because of this material; however, there is a very real risk of this material being reported as Gram-positive cocci potentially influencing patient management.

We are requesting that BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F Culture Vials with the lot number **4220837**:

- 1) **NOT** be used to obtain blood cultures and
- 2) Be removed from your areas and returned to the CDHA stores warehouse by faxing the attached disposition form to **902-466-8074**.

I have included pictures of the blood culture vials to aid in the identification of the specific bottles and their lot number. Any questions can be directed to me or the Microbiologist on-call.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Davidson, Ph.D FCCM D (ABMM)
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Division of Microbiology, Queen Elizabeth II HSC
Associate Professor
Microbiology & Immunology, Medicine and Pathology
Dalhousie University



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LOT NUMBER 4220837

**BD BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F
Culture Vial**