



To: All Healthcare Providers, Nursing, and Pharmacists

From: C. James Sung, M.D.

Executive Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Care New England Health System  
Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Women and Infants Hospital

Cunxian Zhang, M.D.,Ph.D.

Chief and CLIA Director of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Kent Hospital

Katrine Hansen, M.D

Director of Microbiology Lab, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Amy Arruda, MT (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Microbiology Laboratory Manager, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Date: November 22,2022

RE: **Implementation of GenMark ePlex Blood Culture Identification Gram Positive Panel**

**On November 28, 2022**, Care New England is implementing the Genmark ePlex<sup>®</sup> Blood Culture Identification (BCID) Gram-positive Panel, which is a rapid diagnostic test using PCR-based technology. This test can preliminarily identify select organisms and antibiotic resistance genes in around 90 minutes. The goal for this test is to optimize antibiotic therapy as soon as possible. Additionally, the test can help reduce unnecessary antibiotic exposure for potential blood culture contaminants. The gram stain and culture results will still be performed as usual.

The BCID panel will automatically be added to the first blood culture with gram stain results showing gram-positive organisms. **The test does not need to be ordered separately** and no additional charge is applied. Procedure is as follows:

- The microbiology lab will continue to notify clinicians of gram stain results, as they do now.
- **After approximately 90 minutes, the BCID result will be posted in the EMR where blood culture results are found (but the clinician will not receive an additional call if these are positive, so the clinician should continue to check results for the BCID and then ultimately the final organism grown on culture and susceptibility reports).**

Specimen Information

Order: Blood Culture	Collect Date/Time: 10/12/2022 10:49:00 AM EDT
Growth Ind: <b>POS</b>	Last Update Date/Time: 10/12/2022 11:54:27 AM EDT
Status: Preliminary	Testing Site: <a href="#">WM Myla</a>
Source: Bld Venous	Freetext Source:
Body Site:	Accession #: 00001MB20220003197

 [Hide All](#)

▼ Pre by [\[Name\]](#) on 10/12/2022 11:54:27 AM EDT

Blood Culture Positive for: Gram Positive Cocci  
PCR Testing Preliminarily suggests probable: Enterococcus faecium that is  
vancomycin-RESISTANT. Infectious Diseases consultation is recommended.

- The lab will continue to follow the standard blood culture procedure; please continue to follow-up on final organism and susceptibility reports.
- The BCID panel will only be run on the first positive blood culture. It will only be repeated if a different organism is suspected on gram stain, or if requested by Infectious Diseases.

The CNE Infectious Diseases Division has created a guideline ([posted on CAREnet Infectious Diseases Page](#)) to assist in interpretation of BCID results.

*For any questions regarding BCID PCR results, please contact the lab:*

- **Kent:** Hematology Lab (X31484)
- **WIH:** Microbiology Lab (X41191)

*Please contact Antimicrobial Stewardship or Infectious Diseases with any questions regarding antibiotic/treatment guidance:*

- **Kent:** AMSConnect message to "Kent Antimicrobial Stewardship Team"
- **WIH:** Page covering provider (Adult ID Consult, Pediatric-Neonatal ID, or Infectious Diseases Pharmacist) on Amion