

Change in Microbiology Flagging (effective October 25, 2016)

Revised: October 17, 2016

Background: Many microbiology results including blood cultures, urine cultures, wound cultures, and respiratory cultures have historically not been flagged when the results are abnormal. This has been the case since many laboratory systems do not have the capacity to flag abnormal microbiology results. However, recent functionality that has been made available to PHS laboratories that now permits these laboratories to flag abnormal microbiology results.



Change in Microbiology Flagging

Change:

Effective Oct 25, 2016 Microbiology results for sites that are live on Epic will be flagged when the results are abnormal. The abnormal flag will be viewable in Epic in *Results Review*, *Result Detail*, *InBasket*, and the *Microbiology report*. Please see screenshots below for details regarding the appearance of the flags.

IMPORTANT:

- 1) **The flags will ONLY be added to abnormal microbiology testing resulted AFTER October 25, 2016.** All abnormal results prior to this date will **NOT** be subject to flagging.
- 2) **The flagging will ONLY be present for Partners hospitals/labs that are currently on Epic.** These laboratories include BWH, BWFH, DFCI, NWH, MGH, and MEEI. Microbiology results for PHS hospitals not yet on Epic (NSMC, SRH, MVH, NCH) will NOT be flagged until these hospitals go live on Epic. As these additional hospitals go live on Epic they will begin flagging microbiology results.
- 3) **External microbiology laboratory results (e.g. Quest or non-Partners affiliates) that are reported directly into Epic will not be flagged.** Flagging of reference laboratory results will be unchanged from the current state where not all microbiology related tests performed at reference laboratories are flagged.
- 4) **There is no critical result flagging in microbiology.** Only one level of flagging (abnormal vs. normal) is supported so all abnormal results, whether critical or not, will have a single exclamation point flag (!).
- 5) An analogous flag (the suffix “(Abnormal)”) will be appended to abnormal results as displayed in the PHS Viewer and other result viewers that utilize the CDR.

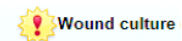
Figure 1: Abnormal microbiology result appearance in **Results Review:**

- Abnormal results highlighted with a **red exclamation point (!)**

	1 9/23/2016 0700	2 8/26/2016 1203	3 8/26/2016 1203	4 8/26/2016 1153	5 ... 8/26/2016 1112
MICROBIOLOGY					
FLUID CULTURE WITH...					
GENITAL CULTURE					
Ova and parasites....					
RESPIRATORY CULTUR...					
TISSUE CULTURE/SMEAR					

Figure 2: Abnormal microbiology result appearance in **Result Detail:**

- Abnormal result highlighted with a **red exclamation point (!)**
- Abnormal result highlighted in **Yellow**
- Abnormal flag **(A)** will be appended to the result text

Results**Wound culture (BWH,DFCI,MGH,MEE Only)**

Collected: 8/26/2016 12:03 PM Status: Final result Visible to patient: Not Released Next appt: None

Specimen Information: Animal bite wound; Other

8/26/16 12:03 PM
 Specimen Source/ Description ANIMAL BITE WOUND
 SPECIAL REQUESTS None
 CULTURE / TEST **4+ PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA (A)**
 REPORT STATUS 08/26/2016 FINAL
 Specimen Collected: 08/26/16 12:03 PM Last Resulted: 08/26/16 12:46 PM

[Order Details](#) [View Encounter Lat](#)**Figure 3:** Abnormal microbiology result appearance in the **Microbiology Report**

- Order name appended with the word **(Abnormal)** colored in **Orange text**.
- Abnormal results will be **colored in Orange text**
- Abnormal flag **(A)** will be appended to the result text

Wound culture (BWH,DFCI,MGH,MEE Only) [1952404] (Abnormal)		Specimen Information: Other from Animal bite wound
Lab Status: Final result		ANIMAL BITE WOUND
Specimen Source/ Description		None
SPECIAL REQUESTS		4+ PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA (A)
CULTURE / TEST		08/26/2016 FINAL
REPORT STATUS		