

Positive blood culture for patient discharged from ED*

Gram stain has anything other than **Gram Positive Cocci or Gram Positive Rods?**

yes

Return to ED

no

Should a subspecialist or PCP be involved?

yes

Discuss with PCP or subspecialist

no

Does patient have **high risk condition (Table 1)?**

yes

Return to ED

no

Does the family have concerns? Consider Table 2.

yes

Return to ED

no

- Confirm phone number
- Review return precautions (Table 3 for infants < 60 days)
- Wait at home until ePlex results - usually 3 hours
- Document in med advice tab

ePlex results return (2-3 hours after gram stain)

ePlex result in Table 4?

yes

Contaminant likely. No further testing needed.

Daytime APN

- FYI PCP (ask Physician Priority Link 6-4010 to leave "ED Blood Culture Contaminant" message
- Give family reassurance of contaminant, review return precautions
- If < 60 days, see PCP in 1-2d

no

Any other ePlex result, including "No organisms detected."
 "No organisms detected on ePlex" means there is unidentified bacteria on the culture that is not included in routine ePlex testing.

yes

Return to ED

*If patient was admitted please direct result to the admitting team

Table 1. High risk conditions.

These factors place patient at risk for any positive blood culture (i.e. even a usual contaminant like Staph epi) to be a true bacteremia

- Immunosuppression
 - High dose steroids
 - Biologics
 - Transplant recipient
 - Chemotherapeutics
 - Primary immunodeficiency
- Intravascular devices (central line, VA shunt)
- Indwelling hardware (orthopedic, VP shunt, pacemaker, baclofen pump, DBS)
- Any congenital heart disease - involve on-call cardiology fellow
- Hx. of unexplained infections (undiagnosed immunodeficiency)
- Asplenia
- Sickle cell disease

Table 2. Possible questions to ask parent:

- How is the child doing?
- Is the child worse than when they left the ED?
- Is the child fussy, febrile, or not waking to feed?
- Were you concerned & thinking about bringing the patient back to the ED/PCP?

Table 3. Return Precautions for infants < 60 days old:

- Fever > 100.4
- Excessive fussiness or sleepiness
- Poor feeding
- Vomiting multiple times
- Signs of dehydration

Table 4. Per ID recommendations, these ePlex results are likely contaminants in a non-high risk patient

- Staphylococcus epidermidis
- Staphylococcus other aka Staphylococcus species
- Bacillus cereus complex & Bacillus subtilis complex
- Corynebacterium
- Cutibacterium acnes
- Lactobacillus
- Micrococcus