COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR BONE MARROW CULTURE

******* PLEASE READ *******
BEFORE BEGINNING PROCEDURE

A. **Laboratory personnel must be notified prior to time of collection**, so they will be available to assist physician in the performance of the procedure.

B. Obtain the bone marrow tray from central supply. It should come with at least one 1.5 ml Isolator blood culture tube attached to an instruction sheet and a physician checklist for tests to be ordered. See attached examples. These two items **must** be available at the bedside if cultures are desired on the specimen.

C. Collection Procedure: **"Time Out" must be performed prior to procedure.**

1. If bone marrow draw is of sufficient volume, fill multiple Isolator tubes. Three tubes will yield the best results, providing adequate specimens for routine aerobic, anaerobic, fungus, and/or acid fast bacilli as defined on the Bone Marrow Checklist. Additional orders may require additional specimens.

2. Use the same iodine solution to disinfect the top of the yellow stopper of the Isolator tube(s) that is used to cleanse the patient's skin. Do not allow the iodine to pool in the stopper(s). Set aside to dry while physician performs the procedure. Do not touch the stopper(s) once it has been cleaned.

3. **Immediately** after obtaining bone marrow in the syringe and before handling it for any other testing:
   a. Change to a clean 20- or 21-gauge needle and add up to 1.5 ml of specimen to each Isolator tube by puncturing the yellow stopper.
   b. **Do not force blood into the tube.** It will pop the top and expose specimen to contamination.
   c. If total volume is less than 1.5 ml and must be shared for additional procedures, hold backpressure on plunger when injecting marrow into tube to prevent vacuum from pulling whole specimen into the tube.
   d. **Once the specimen is placed in the isolator tube, it cannot be used for any other testing.** Never withdraw specimen from the tube.
   e. Remove needle and syringe from the tube. Immediately and vigorously, mix contents by inversion 4-5 times.

4. Label all tubes with a patient label. Place both ends of label on the tube, pinch the excess together to form a tab, so tube is not completely covered and fluid level is visible.

5. Make sure the proper specimens are available for the tests requested before the physician leaves the bedside. Transport specimen to lab with the physician's checklist.

If you feel you need additional instruction, have questions, or need assistance, please call the microbiology department of the laboratory at extension 3119.