LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

Purpose:

To provide guidelines for microbiological sampling in order to ensure a safe environment.

Policy:

1. Microbiological sampling procedures are initiated by Infection Control/Infectious Disease when indicated in an investigation of a specific epidemiological problem, when used as part of a teaching program, when required by local, state, or federal regulation, or as a quality control measure. Patients are not charged for these cultures.

2. Steam and peracetic acid sterilizers are checked daily with a biological monitor. Gas sterilizers are checked with every load. All loads in both steam and gas sterilizers with implantable items have a biological monitor and a chemical monitor, which are placed in each load. (See department specific policies)

3. The pre- and post-dialysate fluid is monitored on a monthly basis. Microbiological counts greater than 200 are not acceptable for pre-counts and greater than 2,000 are not acceptable for post-dialysate counts. (See Renal Unit policy)

4. Environmental testing may be done as needed to check the quality control of any disinfection procedure or infection control measure, however, consultation and approval by the Infection Control Nurse is necessary before culturing.

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Administrator

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Date

Written: 1/75
Revised: 1/95, 4/00, 6/03
Approved by Clinical Board: 6/20/00, 6/17/03