

Microbiology - Out of Hours Service

Scientific Specimen Processing Service

The on-call Microbiology Biomedical Scientist (BMS) works from outside the hospital and may be contacted via the Hospital switchboard 01622 729000.

Results, other than from on-call samples, are not available outside normal hours.

	Mon –Fri	Saturday	Sunday/public holiday
Routine Hours	09:00-17:30	None	None
Limited hours	17.30-18:00	08:30 – 13:00	08:30 – 12:30
On Call	18:00-09:00	13:00 – 08:00	12:30-09:00

Blood cultures can be taken at any time during the on-call period. Specimens taken at **Tunbridge Wells Hospital** should be sent to Pathology on level -2 before 08:00hrs in the morning to ensure that they are sent to Microbiology on the first morning transport run. Specimens from **Maidstone** should be available for collection on the first porters run each morning. Specimens do not require specific incubation temperature and can remain at 'room temperature' overnight if needed. There is no requirement to notify Microbiology staff when blood cultures are taken.

We will process:-

- CSF's and other specimens from suspected meningitis patients
- Urgent fluids from sterile sites e.g. joint and ascitic fluids
- Urgent urines from children
- Corneal scrapes
- Other requests at the discretion of the on-call Microbiology BMS or Consultant Microbiologist

Microbiology Consultant On-Call Service

Urgent clinical advice is available from the Consultant Microbiologist via the hospital switchboard 01622 729000 but will be restricted to:

- **9am-7pm: Any doctor/nurse** (weekdays from 9am-5pm calls should be directed to the Microbiology Department)
- **7pm-10pm: SHOs/Core trainees/STs/Registrars or above only**
- **10pm – 9am: STs/Registrars or above only**

	MONDAY TO FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	BANK HOLIDAYS	Calls from the following will be accepted at any time: GPs A&E Doctors – all grades Pharmacists Infection Control Nurses Laboratory staff
		On-Call Consultant	On-Call Consultant	On-Call Consultant	
9AM – 5PM	Any doctor	Any doctor	Any doctor	Any doctor	
5PM – 7PM On-Call Consultant	Any doctor	Any doctor	Any doctor	Any doctor	
7PM – 10PM On-Call Consultant	CT / STs / Registrar or above only (not FY1 or FY2)	CT / STs / Registrar or above only (not FY1 or FY2)	CT / STs / Registrar or above only (not FY1 or FY2)	CT / STs / Registrar or above only (not FY1 or FY2)	
10PM – 9AM On-Call Consultant	Specialist Registrar or Consultant only	Specialist Registrar or Consultant only	Specialist Registrar or Consultant only	Specialist Registrar or Consultant only	