

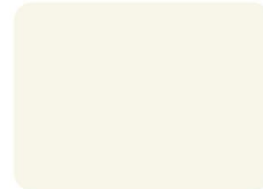
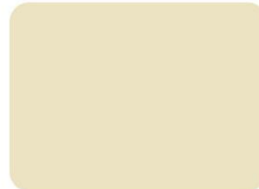
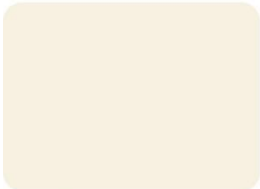
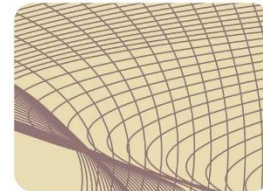
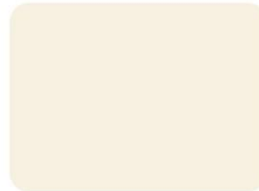
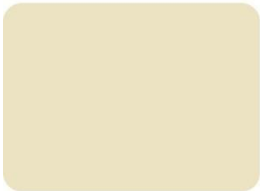
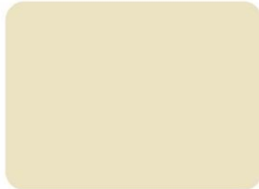
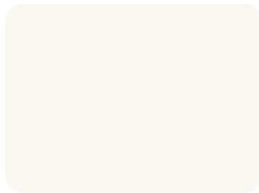
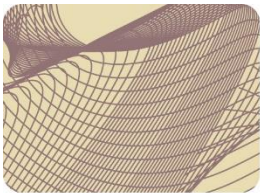


UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations

## Review of users' comments received by Working group for microbiology standards in clinical bacteriology

### Identification of *Actinomyces* species



National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has renewed accreditation of the process used by the UK Health Security Agency to produce UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (UK SMIs). The renewed accreditation is valid until 30 June 2026 and applies to guidance produced using the processes described in 'UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations Development Process' (2021). The original accreditation term began on 1 July 2011.

This publication was created by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in partnership with the partner organisations.

Recommendations are listed as ACCEPT/ PARTIAL ACCEPT/DEFER/ NONE or PENDING

Issued by the Standards Unit, Specialised Microbiology and Laboratories, UKHSA

RUC | ID 15 | Issue no: 1 | Issue date: 30.01.24

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## Section 8.2.1 Gram stain

Comment number: 1

Date received: 21/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: Institute of Biomedical Science

Suggest adding a warning that Actinomycetes are easily decolourised during Gram staining and care should be taken when using acetone and iodine/acetone at the decolourisation stage. Overuse will remove crystal violet from the cell wall resulting in a Gram-negative appearance.

Recommended action

1. Accept.

## Section 10. Reporting

Comment number: 2

Date received: 13/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: NHS Lothian

Now that we are using MALDI - TOF we are finding many more actinomycetes and reclassified organisms in samples. We are using the following system to triage samples for reference laboratory referral. It might be of interest to other labs.

1. Actinomycetes spp. from non-sterile site sample (excluding Breast Clinic):
  - a. These are not routinely sent to UKARU Cardiff for ID and sensitivity
  - b. At authorisation they will be reported out with a standard comment which is added by the BMS, 'Recent improvements in identification methods mean we are now identifying actinomycetes spp. from patients who do not have the classic presentations of actinomycosis. If actinomycosis is unlikely it may be reasonable to manage the patient as clinically indicated. These isolates are usually penicillin sensitive. Please contact a microbiologist if you wish to discuss management'. 'Isolates held for 7 days'.
  - c. Microbiologists may request sending sample to UKARU Cardiff at the point of clinical authorisation, based on the clinical situation.
2. Actinomycetes spp. from sterile site sample and from Breast Clinic:
  - a. Store on Microbank

- b. Send to UKARU Cardiff for further ID and standard AST panel (please tick all antimicrobials on generic AST panel as per send-away request form)
- c. Place in interim reporting with lab comment 'sample stored and sent to Cardiff for further ID and standard AST panel'
- d. At authorisation they will be reported out with a standard comment which is added by the BMS 'Actinomyces spp. has been sent to the reference laboratory for further identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. These isolates are usually penicillin sensitive.'
- e. Microbiologists may request additional AST for UKARU Cardiff at the point of clinical authorisation, based on the clinical situation.

#### Recommended action

1. None. The document provides general guidelines and laboratories should follow local procedures for reporting and referral.

## General comments

### Comment number: 3

Date received: 07/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: RCGP

This document does not relate to testing/sampling in primary care (For example women with intrauterine contraceptive devices), this may not be relevant or be out of scope?

#### Recommended action

1. None. Outside the scope of this document.

### Comment number: 4

Date received: 08/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: UK health Security Agency

Looks OK to me.

#### Recommended action

1. None. No action required.

## Financial barriers

Respondents were asked: 'Are there any potential organisational and financial barriers in applying the recommendations or conflict of interest?'

### Comment number: 5

Date received: 07/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: RCGP

Not applicable

### Comment number: 6

Date received: 08/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: UK health Security Agency

No

### Comment number: 7

Date received: 13/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: NHS Lothian

No

### Comment number: 8

Date received: 21/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: Institute of Biomedical Science

No

## Health benefits

Respondents were asked: 'Are you aware of any health benefits, side effects and risks that might affect the development of this UK SMI?'

### Comment number: 9

Date received: 07/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: RCGP

Not applicable

### Comment number: 10

Date received: 08/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: UK health Security Agency

No

### Comment number: 11

Date received: 13/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: NHS Lothian

No

### Comment number: 12

Date received: 21/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: Institute of Biomedical Science

No

## Interested parties

Respondents were asked: 'Are you aware of any interested parties we should consider consulting with on the development of this document?'

### Comment number: 13

Date received: 08/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: UK health Security Agency

No

### Comment number: 14

Date received: 13/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: NHS Lothian

No

### Comment number: 15

Date received: 21/09/2023

Laboratory or organisation name: Institute of Biomedical Science

No

# Respondents indicating they were happy with the contents of the document

<b>Overall number of comments: None</b>			
<b>Date received</b>		<b>Lab name/Professional body (delete as applicable)</b>	
<b>Health benefits</b>			