

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 30, 2014

To: Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Educators and Nurse Managers

From: Dr. Greg German Health PEI Medical Microbiologist
Andrea Dowling, Chief Technologist Microbiology (QEH)

RE: Blood Culture Utilization and Quality 2013

Over 5,600 blood cultures were drawn in 2013 across the Island. Blood cultures are one of the most important microbiological tests available to the clinician; the optimal utilization of this diagnostic tool is a quality indicator. Both 2012 and 2013 Island wide data is provided below.

Essentially:

- Based on a utilization standard of 5 – 15 % of true positivity, we show excellent utilization.
- Using a target rate for contamination set at $\leq 3\%$, all sites throughout the province are well below the target, which indicates that collection technique by technologists, lab assistants and nurses is superb.

This information is located at www.healthpei.ca/micro. Complete unit specific information is available upon request (aldowling@ihis.org).

CC:

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