

TO: Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratories

FROM: Dr. Dave Warshauer and Julie Tans-Kersten
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH)

DATE: March 10, 2014

RE: Discontinuation of AFB Smear Testing for Blood Specimens

Effective on March 10, 2014, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Mycobacteriology Laboratory will no longer perform primary AFB smears on blood specimens. In general, the concentration of mycobacteria is very low in blood and will not be detected by primary smear. Therefore, only mycobacteria culture will be performed, which is the standard of practice for clinical laboratories in the United States.

Please contact Julie Tans-Kersten (608)-263-5364 with any questions.

