

Normally Sterile Sites: Invasive Bacterial Diseases

The following list is provided to assist you in determining if a specimen was obtained from a normally sterile site (and exceptions) in order to submit clinical isolates to the state lab.

A **normally sterile** site is defined as:

- Blood
- cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- pleural fluid
 - chest fluid
 - thoracentesis fluid
- peritoneal fluid
 - abdominal fluid
 - ascites
- pericardial fluid
- bone
 - bone marrow
- joint fluid
 - synovial fluid
 - fluid, needle aspirate, or culture of any specific joint:
 - knee
 - ankle
 - elbow
 - hip
 - wrist
- internal body sites
 - specimen obtained from surgery or aspirate from one of the following:
 - lymph node
 - brain
 - heart
 - liver
 - spleen
 - vitreous fluid
 - kidney
 - pancreas
 - ovary
 - vascular tissue

Exceptions:

- Group A *Streptococcus* if the source is:
 - Muscle
 - tissue or biopsy that is surgically obtained
 - **any** site (even non-sterile sites) in a case of toxic shock syndrome (TSS) or necrotizing fasciitis (NF).
- Group B *Streptococcus* if fetal death occurs:
 - placenta or amniotic fluid